

TAP Framework Implementation Review Committee (FIRC)
Friday, November 13, 2015 - 10:00a.m. – Noon
Conference Room 123
39 Woodland Avenue
Hartford, CT

Present: L. Doninger (co-chair, GCC), M. Coach (ACC), F. Coan (TXCC), N. Esposito (MCC), S. Fagbemi (CCC), R. Gustafson (WCSU), K. Gorniak-Kocikowska (COSC), B. Merenstein (CCSU), S. Montez (NCC), P. Raymond (MXCC), S. Selke (TRCC), E. Steeves (HCC)

Present Non-Voting: K. Pittman (TXCC)

Absent: D. Weiss (co-chair, SCSU), J. Day (ECSU), S. Gusky (NWCC), N. Kullberg (WCSU), B. Donohue-Lynch (QVCC), B. Tedesco (NVCC)

Call to Order: L. Doninger called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Announcements: The Computer Science pathway is not yet completed and thus will not be reviewed at this meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of 10/9/15 were approved with one minor addition: CCC is reviewing the political science and psychology pathways.

Reports

Campus Updates

TXCC: The Academic Affairs committee endorsed the chemistry, political science, psychology, and sociology pathways, all of which will likely be endorsed by the Professional Staff Organization next week. Desiring more information about the possible negative ramifications of creating a social work pathway, the committee tabled that proposal and will reconsider it in December.

NCC: The biology pathway is on its way to the Senate. The umbrella degree was not endorsed. Citing the paucity of history courses in the history pathway, the Curriculum Committee did not endorse that proposal.

TRCC: Has endorsed the umbrella degree as well as the communication, chemistry, and mathematics pathways. The history pathway was not endorsed. The English pathway is still being considered at the departmental level. The department did not endorse the pathway because of concerns about SCSU not accepting TRCC English courses (American Literature in particular) and the relative lack of TRCC students who take the 200-level English courses designated in the pathway. The other pathways (political science, psychology, criminology, social work) are scheduled for a December 4 vote. The General Education Committee has approved the adoption of the Gateway-NVCC-Asnuntuck linked model to handle the embedded TAP competencies.

ACC: Has endorsed the chemistry, communication, English, psychology, and sociology pathways. Citing concerns that the political science pathway will not adequately prepare students to complete a four-year degree in that discipline, the governance body did not endorse said pathway. Criminology, social work, and mathematics will be voted on in December.

CCC: Has endorsed the chemistry pathway. The history, communication, sociology, psychology, and political science pathways are being considered at the curriculum level. Mathematics, criminology, and social work are also being reviewed, but concerns have been raised about these pathways. Citing concerns that the English pathway does not contain enough English courses relevant to CCC students, the college governance body did not endorse said proposal.

WCSU: The various pathways are being reviewed at the departmental level. The General Education Committee endorsed the umbrella degree “with concerns.” The Senate is considering establishing a process for reviewing both the umbrella degree and the pathways. The First Year Navigation course, required for all transfer students, will no longer be a stand-alone course. Instead, the elements of said course will be embedded in a variety of other discipline and program courses.

HCC: Has endorsed the umbrella degree as well as the history (despite some concerns about the lack of specific history courses) and biology pathways. Nine other pathways are being reviewed at the departmental and curriculum levels and will be voted on in the near future. The institution’s General Education core is being modified and will be competency-based. BIO*208 may be available as an option to satisfy either the Scientific Knowledge and Understanding or Scientific Reasoning TAP General Education requirement.

CCSU: Has endorsed the umbrella degree and the biology and communication pathways. The Academic Dean is reviewing the political science and English pathways. The appropriate departments are considering but raising questions about the chemistry, mathematics, sociology, and psychology pathways. Discussions are underway regarding the TAP approvals process.

MCC: Will probably vote on the psychology, chemistry, communication, English, political science, and sociology pathways in December. Discussions are underway about the pathway endorsement process at MCC. Some faculty raised concerns about the TAP endorsement process. The college would like to discuss ways to endorse the pathways, but still honor the MCC governance process. More specifically, MCC has questions about the three month timeline and how the pathways should move through the curriculum committee. There is some discussion about developing a new form and SOP for the curriculum committee to use for TAP pathways. This is because some of the college faculty have concerns about the documents that will go into the catalog. MCC is currently exploring creative ways to address these issues. Assessment is underway at MCC and some faculty are finding it difficult to make use of the TAP advisory rubrics. Fortunately, said rubrics are advisory, not mandatory.

MXCC: Has endorsed the umbrella degree and history and biology pathways. English, communication, criminology, mathematics, psychology, and social work are scheduled for a December vote.

GCC: Has endorsed all of the pathways save communication and English, which are in limbo for reasons unknown. Concerns have been raised about the lack of specific discipline courses in the political science and history pathway. But given concerns about the ability to run 200 level discipline courses in pathways that

include said courses (e.g., sociology), the pathway was endorsed. In order to allow students at some of the smaller colleges to complete TAP pathways, it is suggested that appropriate chairs and program coordinators share information about their course offerings and collaborate to assist said students.

COSC: The Academic Council foresees no problems with the umbrella degree and pathways. The pathways will be voted on in January.

QVCC (report emailed): On the umbrella degree, we voted to affirm (though in reading the rationale that has been given for the few places that abstained, these are compelling points; at QVCC we ‘voted’ with a degree of skepticism, that it seemed like a “vote” rather than a vote). We also voted to affirm all but two of the eleven pathways we have had before us. We abstained from the English pathway, and from the Criminology pathway for similar reasons—our strong sense that in good conscience we could not tell students these were viable, even knowing they had the opportunity for reverse transfer of a small number of courses etc. For the English pathway, it was presented clearly by the department representatives that English as a discipline is such an integral part of any “pathway” that our students would not be losing any value if we could not/ did not offer it as a distinct pathway. For Criminology, we have had a long history of trying to breathe life into even a criminology certificate, but have such a small concentration of students for whom it would be of interest that we have had to drop even our certificate(s) due to lack of course enrollments etc.

NVCC (report emailed): The Umbrella Degree, English, Communications, Chemistry, Political Science, Sociology, and Psychology Pathways have all passed through all stages and will go up for a campus vote on December 4th. I fully expect all to be endorsed. Math, Social Work, and Criminology are with their divisions.

NWCC (report emailed): NWCC endorsed the Math, Criminology and Human Services Pathways.

SCSU & ECSU: No report

Student Services report (K. Pittman): In a recent meeting with the TAP co-managers, transfer counselors created a roadblocks document that lists some of their concerns about TAP implementation. Many believe TAP requires students to make decisions about a major and about transfer too early in their undergraduate careers. They also believe that selective or second admissions programs should not be included in pathways. The counselors and TAP co-managers will meet again in December.

TAP Co-Managers (K. Klucznik and C. Barrington)

- The computer science pathway has undergone “some setbacks” and is not yet ready to be reviewed by the FIRC.
- In December, the BOR will vote on the TAP umbrella degree and biology pathway.
- The history pathway group will be reconvened.
- The Round Four pathways groups (elementary education, physical education, exercise science, art, theater/drama, music, foreign languages, and physics) are convening today.
- FIRC representatives are urged to do whatever they can to ensure that their respective institutions submit a completed list of courses vetted for TAP (Template 4) to the TAP co-managers as soon as possible.

• **FIRC representatives are reminded to report the results of campus endorsement votes on Round 2 and Round 3 pathways (chemistry, communication, English, political science, psychology, sociology, criminology, mathematics, and social work) no later than January 26, 2016.**

General Education Core, TAP, and Credit Limits: GCC and TXCC have modified their General Education cores to incorporate TAP, and HCC is moving in this direction. NCC has both a General Education core and a TAP core, while ACC has general education requirements specific to individual degrees, not the same across all degrees. They have defined categories, but not the same quantities of courses in the categories for all the degrees. Similarly, at TRCC every degree has 20 credits of Gen Ed, but the credits are specific to the degree. There is no core that every student must complete, however TRCC has recently adopted the TAP competencies as the Gen Ed core and the modification is in process. Other institutions will have to address, in some fashion, the interrelationship between their General Education requirements and the TAP requirements.

Making Courses TAP Compliant: It was suggested that an electronic “storage space” be created where master syllabi for TAP-approved courses will be housed. Faculty who are in the process of vetting courses for TAP would have access to these syllabi. A brief discussion took place regarding the process each institution followed in vetting courses for TAP. Some schools scrutinize vetting decisions at several bureaucratic levels, while other have a much more decentralized and streamlined process.

Assessment: Those present engaged in a wide-ranging discussion about assessment of the TAP General Education competencies. Assessment may well include the collection of student artifacts and may possibly make use of common assignments or common questions, but each CSCU institution will have wide latitude in determining how assessment will be done. Several interesting questions were raised:

- Is it legitimate for faculty to assess TAP competencies by measuring linked (and presumably similar) course or General Education competencies?
- When analyzing assessment data, should faculty discard data from students who do not earn at least a satisfactory grade (“C”) in a course? Should data derived from students who fail a course, or who simply do not complete the assessment(s), be included?
- What role (if any) will the FIRC have in assessment?

The FIRC charge language states that the committee “has primary responsibility to oversee the TAP general education framework (Framework30)” as well as “to review learning outcomes assessment data about general education outcomes provided by campuses” Moreover, the group is charged with suggesting “ongoing quality improvement of rubrics,” facilitating “periodic review of the Framework30 learning outcomes,” and making “recommendations about assessment expectations, including when assessment should occur”

Many of those present seemed favorable towards the idea of establishing a recommended cycle of TAP assessment for the seventeen CSCU institutions, by which the various TAP competencies would be measured and data gathered in some systematic, coordinated fashion. The recommendation might be that every institution assess the same competency or two in a given year and to continue this process each year until all the TAP competencies have been measured and the resultant data compiled. Some members suggested that

this model would integrate well with reviewing and revising the competencies that were developed by the sub-groups in 2012.

Next Meeting: December 11, 2015, 10:00 a.m. until noon, 39 Woodland Avenue, Hartford, CT

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francis M. Coan