

TAP Framework Implementation Review Committee (FIRC)
Friday, May 8, 2015 - 10:00am – 12:00pm
Room 123
39 Woodland Avenue
Hartford, CT

Present: L. Doninger (co-chair, GCC), D. Weiss (co-chair, SCSU), M. Garcia-Bowen (CCSU), M. Coach (ACC), F. Coan (TXCC), N. Esposito (MCC), S. Fagbemi (CCC), G. Gelburd (ECSU), K. Gorniak-Kocikowska (COSC), P. Raymond (MXCC), E. Steeves (HCC), B. Tedesco (NVCC)

Teleconferencing: B. Donohue-Lynch (QVCC), S. Selke (TRCC), S. Steiz (NCC)

Present Non-Voting: N. Kullberg (WCSU), K. Pittman (TXCC)

Absent: S. Gusky (NWCC), R. James (WCSU)

Call to Order: L. Doninger called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Announcements: For Fall 2015, L. Coles will replace G. Gelburd as the ECSU interim FIRC representative.

Minutes: The minutes of 4/17/15 were approved.

TAP Co-Managers' Update (K. Klucznik and C. Barrington): The co-managers distributed a final version of the TAP Pathway Transfer Degree document, as well as a timeline for pathways completion. Several pathways are nearly finished and may be ready to be reviewed by the FIRC in September. The co-managers also distributed a template for listing courses certified for TAP, to be completed and submitted to them by some person on each CSCU campus. On May 13, the Academic Council will discuss how swirl students who complete TAP competency requirements will be tracked by each CSCU institution.

Campus Updates

TXCC: Nothing new

ECSU: Ditto

WCSU, NWCC: No report from either

CCC: Calling for more open electives and a remedy to perceived inequities in the math requirements between the two-year and four-year institutions, the Science and Math Department has voted not to endorse the biology pathway.

COSC: The Provost has stated that "transfer articulation is already in effect" and that "transfer is not an issue."

CCSU: The Faculty Senate has endorsed the biology pathway.

MCC: The Academic Senate endorsed the biology pathway but abstained on the TAP umbrella degree.

NVCC: All programs have been vetted for the 60 credit guidelines. The Gen Ed core is now comprised of a subset of TAP competencies, and the Gen Ed committee will facilitate the assessment for selected competencies.

ACC: Has endorsed the TAP umbrella degree and biology pathway. Most courses have been vetted for TAP.

MXCC: The faculty will be discussing the biology pathway next week.

SCSU: The Biology Department approved the biology pathway.

GCC: Nearing approval of a new General Education core comprised of a subset of TAP courses (except mathematics).

NCC: Due to fears that existing programs are being threatened by TAP, the Senate voted to reject the pathways process and is not ready to endorse any pathway.

QVCC: Support exists for the biology pathway, but concerns have been raised that it may not be viable at QVCC.

TRCC: The Curriculum Committee has vetted all designated TAP courses and will vet embedded courses next year. The Science Department has endorsed the biology pathway.

HCC: All courses have been vetted for TAP. The umbrella degree and biology pathway will be discussed next week.

New Business

TAP Implementation Plan Document Update: The co-managers distributed a document that redefines the role and function of FIRC alternates and includes new language on FIRC attendance expectations. The proposed changes read as follows:

Membership:

In the event that a TAP-FIRC member is unable to serve for a prolonged period of time (e.g., for reasons such as sabbatical, extended illness), the campus shall elect, according to its policy, an interim or replacement representative.

Attendance:

TAP-FIRC members are expected to attend all meetings. When unable to attend in person, members may call in through the arranged conference call; however, members are encouraged to attend in person as this facilitates the conversation given the large number of members in the group.

Members shall inform the Chairpersons of any anticipated absences from meetings.

Membership in the committee shall be terminated for any Member who misses two meetings in an academic year.

A discussion ensued.

Some of those present favored maintaining the position of alternate, allowing alternates to substitute for FIRC members at will, and granting the former all of the powers and privileges of the latter. Others argued that this will lead to chaos and confusion, in large measure because it will be most difficult for alternates who do not regularly attend FIRC meetings to gain fluency in TAP and thus be able to make informed decisions on behalf of their respective institutions. In the end, the committee agreed to strike any reference to FIRC alternates from the TAP Implementation Plan document and allow each campus to decide how to address interim or temporary vacancies. It was noted that every CSU institution is free to send an observer to attend any odd FIRC meeting that an elected or appointed FIRC representative cannot attend. Of course all meetings are open to the public.

Regarding attendance expectations, many of those present supported making said expectations more explicit and sanctioning members—to include possible removal from the committee—who failed to meet their obligations. Others argued that it would be wrong-headed to write policy to address the habits of only one or two committee members, and best if each campus be allowed to decide what to do (if anything at all) about FIRC absenteeism. Several people suggested amendments to the attendance language to differentiate between voting and non-voting members as well as between regularly-scheduled (second Friday of the month) and irregularly-scheduled meetings. An amendment was also offered to change the threshold for what will constitute excessive absenteeism.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the following language and include it as part of the TAP implementation plan document:

Attendance:

TAP-FIRC members are expected to attend all meetings. When unable to attend in person, members may call in through the arranged conference call; however, members are

encouraged to attend in person as this facilitates the conversation given the large number of members in the group.

Members shall inform the Chairpersons of any anticipated absences from meetings.

Membership in the committee shall be terminated for any voting Member who misses two regularly-scheduled meetings in the same semester.

The motion was approved on a vote of fourteen yea, one nay.

History Pathway: K. Klucznik presented a brief overview of the pathway, noting that it requires students to complete only three history courses at the two-year institution and features eighteen open elective credits and a completely unencumbered Framework 30. Some of the other discipline pathways will likely be as flexible as this one. F. Coan stated that students in this pathway may take up to six additional history courses in their Pathway 30 that will transfer to any of the four-year institutions and be applied to the 120 credit degree requirements (although without a guarantee that all of said courses will satisfy a history requirement at the receiving institution).

A motion was made and seconded to approve the pathway. The motion was approved unanimously.

Double Meeting in September: In anticipation of the multiple pathways that may be ready to be reviewed in September, the first FIRC meeting of 2015-2016, which will take place on September 11, place to be determined, will be scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All fondly hope that the committee will be able to complete its work in less than four hours.

Unfinished Business

Implementation Start Dates: A discussion ensued that represented a continuation of the debate on this matter that occurred at the April meeting. Some committee members favor beginning TAP pathways implementation in Fall 2016, while others favor beginning it as soon as campuses vet courses for TAP and as each pathway is approved. The Academic Council will examine how to accommodate (if at all) TAP pathways students who earn credits through non-traditional means (e.g., standardized exams, life experience).

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francis M. Coan