

Minutes for Math Issues Committee, 10/01/04

Memorial Hall, Nutmeg Room, CCSU, 10:30-12:30

Present: Larisa Alikhanova (Three Rivers), Kathy Bavelas (Manchester), Alice Burstein (Middlesex), Elaine Dinto (Naugatuck Valley), Miguel Garcia (Gateway), Diane Hillyer (Manchester), Pat Hirschy (Asnuntuck), Joe Karnowski (Norwalk), Mark Leach (Housatonic)

Division of Math Chair/Coordinator Responsibilities

Committee members shared information from each campus regarding duties of the Math Chair/Coordinator. In some instances, to make the job less overwhelming, duties are split among several department members, who may coordinate courses, evaluate part-time instructors, be responsible for tech prep, etc. as part of their additional responsibilities.

Tech Prep

Discussion centered on how the mathematics portion of tech prep is handled on each campus. As was noted in discussions on the September 24, 2004, system-wide Professional Day at Naugatuck Valley, the Tech Prep Program differs from campus to campus: different courses are articulated, ACCUPLACER may or may not be required as a prerequisite (as it is for other students), a locally developed final exam may or may not be given, the course grade may be determined by the local college or by the local high school. With Common Course Numbering, a system-wide approach would make much more sense.

Committee members noted challenges with the tech prep program include the fact that students in the lower half of their classes tend to sign up for tech prep, and while high school students may meet for 180 days and have a lot of class time to work homework problems, college students meet for 28 days are expected to be responsible for much of their own learning.

The recommendation approved by the Mathematics faculty on the September 24, 2004 Professional Day was also discussed; a motion was made and unanimously approved to adopt that recommendation:

Mathematics faculty recommend that Tech Prep credit for mathematics courses be granted to students only if the students demonstrate proficiency in those courses in a manner determined by the mathematics department at the granting community college.

The group agreed to take the proposal to MBSCC (the Math Basic Skills Committee of CT) and to our Departments. Also the group agreed to make our respective CC Deans aware of the proposal, and to request that they ask that the Council of Deans consider that recommendation.

Math Pathways Project

Pat communicated information about Pathways, a faculty initiated project for steering the mathematical development of students, and specifically to increase student success in algebra. The California model she shared states "The purpose is to identify, develop, and disseminate effective, replicable methods and strategies to increase the success rate in algebra courses across diverse student populations, while increasing understanding and mastery of algebra skills." The group discussed the idea of a pilot Math Pathways program in Connecticut, to better serve our students, and agreed to include this as an agenda item future Math Issues Meetings.

Respectfully submitted by
Elaine Dinto