

Minutes of Math Issues Committee
Friday, December 14, 2007
Gateway Community College
North Haven Campus, Room 113 A

Present — Larisa Alikhanova (Three Rivers), Kathy Bavelas (Gateway), Jean-Marc Cenet (Tunxis), Elaine Dinto (Naugatuck Valley), Paul Edelen (Manchester), Andre Freeman (Capital), Teresa Foley (HCC), Miguel Garcia (Gateway), Pat Hirschy (Asnuntuck), Joy Mark (Quinebaug Valley), Linda Musco (Middlesex)

The **meeting was called to order** at 11:00 a.m. by Miguel Garcia.

Minutes from the November 9, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved.

As a result of the meeting Elaine Dinto, Miguel Garcia, and Pat Hirschy had on December 12, 2007 with Dr. Paul Susen and Dean Mary Ann Affleck, they presented a four-point proposal on Intermediate Algebra placement for discussion and action by the Committee.

After extensive discussion, the Math Issues Committee unanimously approved the following preliminary plan regarding placement testing for fall 2008 implementation. The plan will be sent to Dr. Paul Susen no later than Monday December 17th, 2007, with the understanding that some colleges may delay the implementation until fall 2009. In such cases, the college may request a delay from Dr. Susen by presenting the rationale for delay and a plan for implementation.

Please note that there has been no time for discussion of the plan with math faculty from all campuses; those discussions will take place at the beginning of the spring semester, and specific concerns will be brought back to the Math Issues Committee at the February 8, 2008 meeting. Revisions to the plan may become necessary.

Following are the results of the discussions on Intermediate Algebra placement:

1. **All colleges will start Accuplacer with the Elementary Algebra (EA) subtest.** An Arithmetic (AR) score should be available adaptively, for students placing below Elementary Algebra.
2. **To place into Intermediate Algebra,** the entering Elementary Algebra (EA) subtest score is between 54 and 66, system-wide.
3. **To place out of Intermediate Algebra** requires a score of 40 or higher in the College Level Math (CLM) subtest of Accuplacer. This score will place students into some, but not all, courses above Intermediate Algebra in the system.
4. **An alternative way of placing out of Intermediate Algebra** is a score of 550 or higher in the math portion of the SAT. This score will place students into some, but not all, courses above Intermediate Algebra in the system.

The Committee also proposed the following plan:

- We will bring feedback / concerns from our colleges to the next Math Issues Meeting regarding the four proposals presented above.
- With assistance from campus Institutional Research, we propose that colleges that are affected by the proposed changes in the placement testing procedure do a simulation in the spring to test the impact of the changes, i.e., determine the number of students who would be placed higher or lower if EA is used first and our proposed band is implemented. This data will impact directly on college scheduling and staffing needs.
- We will identify common student learning outcomes for Elementary Algebra and Intermediate Algebra.
- With facilitation from the System, Math Issues will initiate a dialogue with College Board in order to assess alignment between the Accuplacer and our student learning outcomes.
- We will investigate alternative assessment tools in addition to Accuplacer results and SAT mathematics scores to use in the placement process, such as CAPT scores, Credit by Exam scores, high school grades, and high school math courses successfully completed.
- We will continue communication with MATYCONN, CSU and UConn math faculty. (Note: MATYCONN is the Connecticut chapter of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges, AMATYC.)
- We will identify approaches to make placement testing more effective. This will include investigating ways to refresh student algebra skills prior to taking Accuplacer, considering programs such as Accuplacer A+ and Western CT State University's Bridges Program and the work of the MAT Council, and implementing AMATYC's position statement regarding mathematics placement in order to provide a more holistic approach to placement.
- We will explore ways to disseminate information about "combination courses" and other innovations developed at sister colleges.

Miguel welcomed and introduced our guest, Bob Conte, the Gateway CCP coordinator, who stated that the Perkins grant money that funds the program can be used either by the high school or the college to pay for Accuplacer. (Note: this includes bussing of high school students to colleges for testing, but may not cover payment of the individual tests.)

Elaine talked about the Naugatuck Valley's recently signed CCP agreements, for Intermediate Algebra, for the 2008-2009 academic year, and agreed to send the details to the members of the Committee.

Pat asked Bob for the actual legislature for CCP.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larisa Alikhanova