

Math Issues - Draft Minutes Friday, October 15, 2010

Present: Joachim Bullacher (QVCC), Paul Edelen (MCC), Teresa Foley (ACC), André Freeman (CCC), Pam Frost (MxCC), Pat Hirschy (ACC), Mark Leach(HCC) , Susan Ricciuti (TxCC), Rachael Schettenhelm (GWCC), Elaine Dinto (NVCC), Helen Cloherty (NCC), Larisa Alikhanova (TRCC), Nick Stugard (TxCC), Sal Maimone (NCCC)

Meeting called to order at 11:05 am

1. The minutes from the September 17 meeting were approved unanimously, as moved by Paul and seconded by Teresa. Thank you Rachael! Sal offered to take the minutes for the October 15 meeting.

2. Old Business

a) Placement practices, including SAT/ACT scores, Accuplacer

Pat and Teresa reported on an Accuplacer conference they attended this spring in Boston. Copies of the conference brochure and of a validation service were distributed. Ideas of interest included new diagnostic software, testing in high schools, and a College Board validation service. Sue described a high school Accuplacer project conducted by a faculty member from Berkshire CC. Additional information can be obtained from LRecko@berkshirecc.edu.

Update progress on Math Issues Committee proposed plan for MAT 13X

The committee began review of the Intermediate Algebra plan created as a result of the 2007 state legislation and updated 02/13/09. At this time, all colleges have implemented the changes in Action 1 but have not necessarily conducted the assessment. Representatives were asked to email Rachael (rschettenhelm@gwcc.comnet.edu) with specific college information regarding the impact of the mandated changes in the Accuplacer cut scores and the practice of giving the Elementary Algebra sub-test to all students.

The committee discussed the possibility of approaching the Council of Deans for an opportunity to present at a council meeting. The presentation could include the updated Intermediate Algebra plan as well as innovative college initiatives addressing Intermediate Algebra placement and student support strategies.

b) Statway

André facilitated the Statway discussion. He described the initiative as an opportunity for students at the Elementary Algebra level to complete college-level statistics in one year. He reviewed Capital's proposed Statway 1 and Statway 2 syllabi, which integrate statistics with selected elementary and intermediate algebra topics. The committee discussed the target potential student population and the relationship with the current algebra sequences. Accurate advising will be especially important for this initiative.

c) MAT 13X and college-level standards

Sal facilitated the discussion regarding the credit status of Intermediate Algebra. The content is very similar to Algebra II as offered at the high school level. CCC students could earn a 2-year degree with only secondary level mathematics. Sal is interested in initiatives that combine Elementary and Intermediate Algebra at a developmental level. This would impact on the mathematics currently required by some college programs. Differing points of view were offered. Pat mentioned that this is a challenging but appropriate topic for Math Issues to investigate. It would be helpful to gather additional information. Sal offered to research the credit status of Intermediate Algebra as offered at colleges across the United States.

d) College Career Pathways

Due to a lack of time, this item was tabled for the next meeting.

3. New Business

College DEI (Developmental Education Initiative) updates

Pam reported that Middlesex is considering partnerships with service high schools.

Sal reported that Northwestern is planning to use the money to pay for embedded tutors and/or pay full-time professors overload pay to hold a weekly math lab for students to receive one-one tutoring. The college is considering purchasing MyMathLab, and Sal proposed that the system consider collectively purchasing the service to save money.

4. Announcements

MATYCONN fall conference October 22 at Middlesex

AMATYC conference November 11 – November 14 in Boston

Meeting adjourned at 12:40

Respectfully Submitted, Sal Maimone