

Math Issues Committee Meeting
Friday, April 15, 2011
Library Conference Room, Tunxis Community College

Present: Helen Cloherty (NCC), Elaine Dinto (NVCC), Paul Edelen (MCC), Teresa Foley (ACC), Pam Frost (MxCC), Miguel Garcia (GWCC), Pat Hirschy (ACC), Sal Maimone (NWCC), Ricardo Martinez (CCC), Sue Ricciuti (TxCC)

Pat provided the following **handouts**: (1) agenda, (2) minutes of the March meeting, (3) College Career Pathways summary, (4) Common Course Numbers, Titles, Rationale, Content document from MATYCONN website

The **meeting was called to order** at 11:08 am

Minutes of the 3/11/11 Math Issues Committee meeting were accepted. Thank you, Teresa!

OLD BUSINESS

- a) Elaine Dinto requested that the Committee review the system documents for accuracy. She wants to update the MATYCONN website so that all newer courses are represented. Sal mentioned that Northwestern is offering MAT 085, which is a combination of MAT 075 and MAT 095.

The Committee discussed the varying grade requirements for prerequisites (C vs C_) and the possibility of instituting a common prerequisite grade. Mention was made that according to Board policy students can only take a course 3 times.

- b) **Statway** – Andre is attending a meeting between CCC and CSU to discuss the possible transfer of STATWAY. CCSU is considering offering transfer credit for a statistics course but may require Accuplacer scores for placement into other mathematics courses. The Committee discussed the impact of STATWAY on MAT 16X and the decision each college will need to make whether to offer STATWAY or not. As mentioned in previous meetings, advising will be critical to identify the appropriate students for STATWAY. It's possible that an FAQ sheet might be helpful for advising.

- c) **Update progress on Math Issues Committee proposed plan for MAT 13X**
Several colleges including Manchester, Middlesex, and Naugatuck are conducting research to identify effective variables for student success. Pam and Elaine shared possible research questions that the Committee could consider for collaboration with IR divisions next year.

This summer Pam is conducting a two-week prep course (Alex and a \$20 prep book) for Accuplacer and will note how much the scores have improved. Reading scores may also be a factor in student success. We need to measure success rate of students in other course such as College Algebra and MAT 095. It's possible that students who place directly into a course may generally do better compared to those that needed to take the prerequisite course first.

d) MAT 13X and College-level Standards -

The Committee discussed the impact of pending statewide legislation requiring high school students to complete 4 math courses for high school graduation. This may result in the secondary course Algebra II becoming a required course. The equivalent postsecondary course MAT 13X Intermediate Algebra may become formally recognized as a developmental course. There may be public concern that the state is paying twice for the same education. Accuplacer preparation and other instruction may become the purview of Continuing Education.

It would be strategic for the CCC system to be proactive and address this issue. Due to K-12 budget constraints, 2014 is the target date for the high school reform. The CCC system can react more quickly because we already have the resources in place. We could generate a Pros and Cons list for the credit status of MAT 13X. Our continuing efforts to improve placement, including research and Accuplacer preparation options, should place more capable students into higher-level courses. This is especially helpful for degrees that require 2 courses beyond MAT 13X. Pam has researched the math requirements for some majors at CCSU and SCSU. The Committee expressed interest in the mathematics requirements for the highest-enrolled majors such as Business and Nursing at the public postsecondary institutions. Manchester requires students to complete developmental courses prior to taking general studies courses. Middlesex has a similar requirement for most general studies courses. Miguel mentioned that he strongly advises nursing students that they really need MAT 167 Principles of Statistics, not just MAT 137 Intermediate Algebra.

The Committee discussed the goal of formulating a system recommendation for mathematics general education requirements. Courses above MAT 13X may be considered for students who are transferring to a 4-year college. For students who are interested in careers at the Associate level, courses such as MAT 109 Quantitative Literacy may be appropriate.

e) College Career Pathways –

Pam referred the Committee to the College Careers Pathway summary and mentioned that we are still missing information from a couple of colleges.

NEW BUSINESS

College DEI updates: Pam mentioned that Middlesex is pairing math and English faculty with high schools to better align the high school and college curriculum.

The Committee decided that if MBSCC decides not to meet on May 13, then Math Issues will meet on May 6 at Naugatuck, prior to the MATYCONN Spring meeting.

The **meeting adjourned** at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Helen Cloherty