

MATH ISSUES COMMITTEE MINUTES

11:00-12:30 on Friday, February 10, 2012
Library Conference Room, Tunxis Community College

Mark your calendars! Spring 2012 meeting dates: April 13, May 4

Members Present: Harry Burt (NVCC), Helen Cloherty (NCC), Karen Collin (NWCC), June Decker (TRCC), Elaine Dinto (NVCC), Paul Edelin (MCC), Teresa Foley (ACC), Pam Frost (MxCC), Miguel Garcia (GWCC), Eli Glatt (NCC), Pat Hirschy (ACC), Sal Maimone (NWCC), Sue Ricciuti (TxCC)

Eli brought the meeting to order at 11:08

1. Approval of Minutes (5 minutes)
Thank you to Sal for facilitating the meeting and to Pat for taking the minutes!
Minute-taker and time-keeper for this meeting: Pam and Pat
Changes were mentioned (Date is 2011, etc.) The motion passed with several abstentions.

2. Old Business (5 minutes) - none

3. 2011-2012 Committee Goals (40 minutes)

a) Course redesign initiatives-**Helen**, Sal, Nick, Sue, Mark, Eli

Bridge Program - Norwalk faculty members are working with a high school group and will be reporting to their department next week. Malia Sieve - state person coordinating College and Career Readiness. Paul shared that MCC is working on this as well (College Access Challenge Grant paid for laptops in HS and they are using ALEKS). Harry shared that NVCC is working with Waterbury School System and has a smaller grant.

Statway – Harry shared that they started Statway II. Students are struggling more with this course. The concepts are more challenging and it seems to be a big leap for the students. Everybody in the nationwide network feels like Statway I was a success. However, only 40% of the colleges completed the full course and this is cause for concern. At NVCC 20% of the students that passed Statway I did not continue with Statway II because of personal issues (had to work, times the classes are being offered, etc.). The students that did not pass (very few – 3 or 4 students) had to go back and take MAT*095. All assessments are common.

b) Assessment of student success in developmental and degree courses, including MAT 13X Intermediate Algebra Plan-**Sal**, Mark, Karen, Rachael

Sal reported that at NWCC they are trying to determine if their placement cutoffs are appropriate. They collected data on placements and grades in their first two math courses. Students are taking both the Elementary Algebra and Arithmetic subtests if their Elementary Algebra score is less than 100. They are finding that many students are

placing into MAT*095 with very low arithmetic skills and this holds them back in the class. This is also true for students placing into MAT*137. They are looking at how to filter more students into the MAT*085 (6 credit combination of MAT*075 and MAT*095 content). They are looking to fix the placement cut scores so that students don't have a choice between the MAT*075 and the MAT*085. Other schools are also looking at these cut scores. Pat shared that our request for system IR assistance on this topic has been turned over to the BOR but they are in a period of transition. Sal will send more information on what they are doing at NWCC and the questions we developed for feedback to members. The goal is to get this done this semester. We should include information from any of the schools that have already done this.

The committee discussed the sunset clause on placement test data. The information isn't complete yet, but the committee will continue to address the topic.

Pat shared that it will be interesting to see how ability to benefit and math will play out with the new BOR and the Legislature. We will need to stay tuned so that we can provide input.

c) Best practices for College Career Pathways, including assessment results-**Pam**, Elaine (now turning that over to Harry)

Up to this point we thought this was going to end this year but now there are indications that this will be continuing. At MxCC we are trying to restructure and are meeting with a lot of resistance from the K-12 folks. Harry shared that they are continuing. Paul shares that at MCC things are continuing as well. Sue reported that there is a meeting next week at TxCC with the math department and the Dean. Teresa shared that at ACC they require each school apply each year and it continues to be challenging, especially with assessment. June suggested that we verify that the standards we are asking of the HS students and our students are consistent. Sal questioned whether there is a requirement in CT for developmental students to pass the final exam to pass the course. This group may want to discuss this in the future and see if we want to move in this direction with a common exam for our developmental courses. Many of the colleges already have common finals with grading rubrics.

Pat asked whether this group wants to do a formal assessment of the College Career Pathways Program. Do they do any worse than anyone else that takes our courses? Many of those students don't come to our colleges so it would be hard to track. What is the CCP bringing to our colleges? June said that they are feeding their technology courses at TRCC which is the intention of the program. This group should come back with some questions or appropriate ways to assess this program. We could look at some of the "best practices" in our system for both math and the program in general. Also, we should look into how the program in general is being assessed.

d) Position statement for general education requirements in mathematics for transfer and non-transfer students-**Pat**

Pat observed that there is a common thread in all of our areas: How are high school students doing when they come to the CCs? There is also going to be a statewide spotlight on how these students do when they come to us as well.

4. New Business (5 minutes)

Eli, Joachim and Elaine will be working on updating the common course information on the MATYCONN website so if you receive a request for information, it will be for this effort.

Miguel asked about the BOR directive about common courses for our entire system, general education requirements, and seamless articulations. We should discuss this at the Basic Skills Council meeting this afternoon.

5. Announcements and other (5 minutes)

Sal showed the MML website and how to find him as a faculty advisor.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Frost