

COMPASS STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

February 27, 2004
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
District Office – Board Room

I. Orientation Project

Tabled until the next meeting.

II. Review of ESL Policies

Mike Khirallah indicated that he put together a flow chart and had the ESL coordinators review it for consistency. He also presented material which included an assessment chart for ESL classes, a description of tests used in ESL courses, and assessment for initial placement.

Mike also stated that MTELP is the initial placement for all classes.

MaryJo Schuster noted that ESL students have no re-test option. Mike reported that the discipline does offer an appeal process.

MaryJo indicated that there are a significant number of ESL students who are unfamiliar with standardized testing and a consistent policy is needed between all disciplines with regards to testing.

It was also noted that COMPASS ESL could have corrected the MTELP deficiencies; unfortunately, the pilot program was cut too short.

Mike Khirallah indicated that the ESL discipline will be having a meeting in May 2004 to review the following:

- Clean-up phone pass scores
- Looking at threshold cut score or MTELP for ENG-1510
- TOEFL as a placement instrument
- Issue regarding US graduates – testing & placement

Carla Mathews reported that ACT stated their willingness to analyze the data from the ESL E-write pilot program for free to attempt to provide a better placement test than MTELP.

MaryJo Schuster reported that she found no correlation between COMPASS reading scores and the Nelson-Denny reading test. In fall 2003, 44 ENG-1051 students were tested with the following results:

		<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Raw scores	Nelson Denny	8	64
Raw scores	COMPASS	19	79

She also noted that she has some real concerns about the reading portion of COMPASS.

Janice Brown noted that students taking the COMPASS test took longer with the reading portion as opposed to the grammar and vocabulary sections. She also suggested that the questions on the test could be better organized and that there is a problem with toggling between two screens.

Katherine Lichtenberg said it would be nice to have an instrument that tests and serves the students well regardless of budget cuts.

MaryJo Schuster noted that the College really needs an Assessment Coordinator who has expertise in this area. Mike Khirallah indicated that other colleges have testing centers and directors which provide an appropriate level of support.

III. COMPASS English Placement

Tabled until the next meeting.

IV. Procedures for Making Prerequisite Changes

Carla Mathews reported that she met with IT and both agreed that there should be written procedures in place with regard to departments requesting changes to current prerequisites. She and Tammy O'Dea are working together to create the form for future use.

Chuck Neumann stated that course MAT 2530 (Elementary Teaching) COMPASS score can be modified without going through the curriculum process.

It was also noted that IT reversed all prerequisite changes proposed by the Math Department with regard to Colleague/Datatel prerequisite enforcement/COMPASS math placement program pending further approval. Initially, it involved removing the three year rule for having to earn a grade of "C" or better in a prerequisite course for the following four courses: MAT 1740, MAT 2740, MAT 2810, and MAT 2530. In addition, the COMPASS score range for entry into MAT 2530 would be lowered to the level required for entry into

