

# PLACEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

Friday, March 10, 2006  
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
District Office – Board Room

Meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm. Present were: Katherine Lichtenberg, Vicki McNiff, Mary Jo Schuster, Sue Bourbeau, Gary Haw, John Mitchell, Janice Brown-Williams, Doug Riddering, Steve Linden, Kathy Chiasson, Carla Mathews, Kelli VanBuren, Sally Hanna, Kim Boose, Sarah Lemelin, Nancy Showers

## I. NEW BUSINESS

### A) Conversion of ACT math scores

Kathy Chiasson presented the chart of qualifying COMPASS scores and ACT concordant scores approved by the math department on Discipline Day (February 10, 2006). Students who wish to take MAT-1600 or higher must take the COMPASS test for placement because the ACT concordant report did not represent that their Trig is equivalent to COMPASS Trig. Beginning May 2007, ACT will become mandatory. The math department is hoping to alleviate testing concerns by accepting ACT scores for math placement. The placement score generated will expire after two years. Kathy noted that further discussion is needed to answer the following questions:

- 1) Is it possible for students who score at the highest level (23-36) on the ACT test to start at the Trig part of the COMPASS test? Currently, students must start at the Algebra level. Sue Bourbeau stated that a new test could be defined and created to use a starting domain higher than algebra; there would be a problem with starting on the current Trig portion because there are too many choices for this broad score range. Individual TSUM screens would have to be checked for each student to view the ACT score for determining the proper starting point.
- 2) Are we collecting the Math sub-scores from ACT? Gary Haw stated that the ACT tapes are not currently being entered because Datatel does not have a download port for the system.
- 3) When can this be automated? Carla Mathews has requested IT to create an import process in which the ACT tapes are uploaded. Until this process is resolved, scores can be manually entered into TSUM by IIC or Enrollment Service staff on campus. Kathy Chiasson will assist with rule-writing for the automated process.

### B) Exemption statement in college catalog and schedule of classes

Kathy Chiasson will send appropriate verbiage to Leanne Nadlicki for placement in college publications beginning Fall 2006.

### C) Committee name change

The committee approved the name change from COMPASS Steering Committee to Placement Steering Committee.

## II. UPDATE OF COMPLETED PROJECTS

### A) Assessment Exemption Placement Grid

The exemption grid sheet was reviewed and grammatical/editorial changes were made by the

committee. Mary Jo Schuster suggested that the words “Placement Generated” be replaced by “Prerequisite Generated” for clarity. Leanne Nadlicki and Janet Harper will make the updates and redistribute the grid sheet.

B) E-mail notification of deregistered students

Leanne Nadlicki stated that in addition to the postcard that is mailed, students are sent an e-mail notifying them of deregistration that occurs due to the prerequisite check. Leanne also reported that some of the e-mails are returned due to bad e-mail addresses or other system issues. It was then suggested that a proposal be sent to the DMT to consider college issued e-mail addresses for students. Gary Haw stated that the maintenance involved in such a project, and the reported problems this practice has caused other institutions, makes implementing this suggestion difficult.

C) Implementation of bypass of the 3-year rule for repeating math classes

The math department presented a proposal to the COMPASS Steering Committee on October 28, 2005 to allow the automatic prerequisite bypass for students repeating a math course regardless of time passed since completing the course. After discussion, review and testing, this project was implemented in the LIVE system in time for Winter 2006 registration which began on Monday, November 7, 2005. A statement was added to the college catalog and schedule of classes notifying students of this new policy.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

- A) The English department presented a proposal to raise the English COMPASS cut-off score for ENG-1055. The rationale for this proposal is to prevent registration into ENG-1055 of students who are below the bottom level of preparedness for the lowest developmental reading and writing course. Data was gathered by IR to support this change. The English department would like this change effective as soon as possible to properly place those students who are taking the COMPASS test for Fall enrollment. Leanne Nadlicki will set up a meeting with Sue Bourbeau, Kelli VanBuren, Katherine Lichtenberg, Janet Harper, and John Mitchell to change and test the COMPASS domain for these new scores.
- B) Kim Boose reported a problem with finding COMPASS scores that were archived in the fall. Sue Bourbeau stated that a one-time archiving took place in December and this should not be a problem now. Kim also reported that AH campus would not be conducting COMPASS testing March 28 – 30 because their staff would be assisting with the COMPASS testing project at M-Tec for Andover & Lahser high school students.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm. Next meeting – TBD.

Respectfully Submitted,



Leanne M. Nadlicki  
Recording Secretary