

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee

Videoconference

Tuesday, November 13th, 2007

1:30-3:00

Dixon University Center

2986 North Second Street

Harrisburg, PA 17110-1201

Dr. Kate Shaw, Deputy Secretary for Postsecondary and Higher Education, opened the videoconference with a greeting to all sites. The sites participating in this videoconference were the Harrisburg site at the Dixon University Center, Indiana University of Pennsylvania Site and the California University of Pennsylvania site.

Course Review/Approval Status

The meeting opened with Dr. Shaw providing updates: as of now there are over 27,000 established equivalencies across the state, with an average of 38 per institution. These are very impressive numbers and TAOC and the subcommittees should be commended.

Eastern and Western Transfer Meetings

Sandy Edmunds gave an update on the Eastern and Western Transfer Meetings. The topics up for discussion are how the Eportal can be most beneficial to the institutions and students, as well as how it will be marketed. The next meeting will be held at PDE on Wednesday, November 14th, 2007.

Eportal

Next, Karen Todd spoke about Collegetransfer.net and how it will be designed to fit Pennsylvania's needs. It will include transfer agreements for all participating colleges and universities and will be the "public face" to what TAOC has done over this past year. There will be a statewide public relations campaign with each participating institution featured. CAOs will have the opportunity to view the website thoroughly prior to going online. The projected start up date is February 2008. Dr. Shaw would like feedback from the group as to what role they want to play in the creation of the website.

There was some question as to Academy One's role and service provided within this academic year. Dr. Shaw would like these services posted to the ftp website. Services include:

- A 12-month subscription to Course Equivalency Management System.
- A 12-month subscription to transfer system (an unlimited number of Transfer Agreement Management Center can be listed).

- PA Customized Transfer Portal – hosting, maintenance, database administration server maintenance and help desk support.
- PA Customized Transfer Portal – Customization.
- PA Customized Transfer Portal – Project Management

The following questions/concerns were raised:

- Institutional Catalogs: How will Academy One retrieve catalog information? Karen Todd, from Academy One informed that if the catalog is in PDF or hotmail form, they will be able to retrieve this information on their own. Participating institutions will need to update their catalog and course number changes. Academy One updates their information once a year. The question of a standardized format for catalogs was presented.
- Many institutions are paying substantial money to have their catalog done and now this will require them to pay to have it done a different way? Dr. Shaw would like feedback on how expensive it would be for each institution to re-format their undergraduate catalog via email.
- Various disclaimers will be included on the website.
- Historical records and equivalencies will be included on the website. All courses will be dated, even if they are no longer offered, no data will be eliminated.

Dispute Resolution Process

Moving to the Dispute Resolution Process, Dr. Shaw stated that law requires a committee and briefly reviewed the draft provided at the meeting in hopes of moving forward to finalize the document. The group is requested to send suggestions and feedback to Dr. Shaw by December 1st, 2007.

Transfer Data Reporting Requirements

Sandy Edmunds briefly spoke about Transfer Data Reporting Requirements. The data and information from reports are presently being reviewed and finalized.

Operational Guidelines and Processes

Minimum 30-Credit TAOC Framework: After the 30 credit framework worksheet was reviewed, a discussion was opened on the operational guidelines and processes. The following are highlights of the discussion:

- This list is a general list for students, advisors, etc.
- There is a feeling that this list will be confusing because of the language stating “minimum 30 credit”. The language needs to be reconsidered.
- There needs to be a place on the website that advertises the courses will transfer anywhere.

- Need to come up with a name for the framework and forward suggestions to Dr. Shaw via email.
- The concept of a minimum of 30 credits leaves the student thinking they need to transfer after 30 credits. The student should be encouraged to finish an Associate degree. This could be detrimental to community colleges.

Discussion also took place on how to conceptualize the categories. Example: some institutions consider history as a humanities course, while others consider it social science. Should the categories be numbered without name identifiers? Feedback is requested via email to Dr. Shaw.

Opt-In

There was some discussion on the opt-in date. The final decision led to the date of February 28, 2008. Suggestions and concerns include:

- As soon as equivalencies are established, they are included.
- Institutions alert students about the equivalencies.
- If course is approved after the deadline, it can be retroactive.
- Put the burden back on the student, by directing them to check the website and see if there are any new equivalencies, the student may appeal it.

Subcommittees: Agreement was reached that subcommittees will stay intact. As institutions opt-in to the program, the subcommittees will review the syllabi.

PASSHE

Kathleen Howley reported on what is taking place with PASSHE. A meeting will be taking place to discuss Academic Passport and how to make sense of it. She briefly described three grants they have also been added to their program.

Degree Audit

Karen Todd, from Academy One, spoke of Degree Audit and the upcoming meeting taking place on December 3rd, 2007 with PDE, Academy One and PASSHE to discuss the SAP system roll out at PASSHE institutions. There is a widespread agreement on having a Degree Audit System. The goal is to reframe it and make the process easier for a transfer student. The programming is in the works, it is a matter of the institutions being technologically ready.

Before adjourning the meeting, Dr. Shaw took a few minutes to wrap up the highlights of the agenda items, commended everyone for their hard work and expressed pleasure with the progress to date.

Action items:

- Provide opportunity for TAOC participants to see the transfer EPortal before it goes live.
- PDE will post Academy One work statement on the ftp site.
- TAOC participants may send suggestions related to 30-minimum credit framework to Kate, including name for the document.
- TAOC participants may send their suggestions about the Dispute Resolution Subcommittee Process document by December 1st to Sandy Edmunds – sedmunds@state.pa.us.
- Continue the discussion about the opt-in date. Should there be a second date – for instance August - for institutions to opt-in?
- Send TAOC draft solutions to the student-level problems associated with new equivalencies and when it is operational.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:05 p.m.

Participants:

Dr. Kate Shaw, PDE
Karen Todd, Academy One
Mike McGovern, Northampton CC
Janis Walker, Lincoln
Grant Snyder, Delaware CCC
Jim Mackin, Bloomsburg
Thomas Burns, Millersville
Diane DeLong, Lehigh Carbon CC
Beth Benson, Bucks CCC
Gary Rizzo, Reading Area CC
Kizzy Morris, Kutztown
Cathy Lencioni, HACC
Michele O'Connor, Temple
Karen Deichert, Pennsylvania Highlands
Dan Obara, Westmoreland CCC
Rachelle Prioleau, Clarion
Barbe Moore, IUP
Belinda Smith, California

Sandy Edmunds, PDE
Brian Barden, Mansfield
Godlove Fonjweng, Cheyney
Anne Rohrbach, Penn State
Joseph Kissell, Bloomsburg
Tracy Schoolcraft, Shippensburg
Dr. Darla Coffey, West Chester
Bill Williams, Slippery Rock
Roger Johnson, Lock Haven
Vicki Basteck, Montgomery CCC
Jim Moran, PASSHE
Ron Young, HACC
Patricia Beeson, Pitt
Mary Sadler, IUP
William Miller, Butler CCC
Nick Kolb, IUP
Melanie Blumberg, California

Recorder: Jenn Morgan, PDE