



## STATEWIDE ARTICULATION AND TRANSFER COUNCIL MEETING RECAP

September 3, 2009

**Council Members:** Mike Gargano (LSUS), Margaret Ambrose (SUS), Monty Sullivan (LCTCS), Mary Ann Coleman (LAICU), Brad O'Hara (ULS), Debbie Schum (DOE), Paul Theriot (DOE),

**General Education Committee:** Brian Etheridge (La Tech), Lisa Taylor-Dupree (BPCC), Kevin Cope (LSU A&M), Jeffrey Temple (SELU), Debbie Lea (Delgado CC),

**Board of Regents Staff:** Lynn House, Sharon Southall, Karen Denby, Lisa Vosper, Larry Tremblay, Gerard Killebrew, Stephen Scott

**Guests:** Carolyn W. Burgh (BPCC), Michael Travers (La. College), Jerry Pinsel (LCTCS), Katie Busby (Tulane)

***Please see below for a summary of the issues discussed.***

- Welcome and Introductions.** Chair Mike Gargano opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m.
- Overview of Agenda.** Due to the size of the work of the Council, it was noted that the Council would meet at least once a month, perhaps twice a month, with committees and work groups meeting as needed.
- Report of the General Education Committee.** Reports were made and discussed with the following items mentioned:
  - ULS – Brian Etheridge and Jeff Temple - Data submitted by campuses to determine most commonly offered Gen Ed courses.
  - LCTCS – Monty Sullivan – identified “transfer programs” and “most transferable courses”.
  - LSUS – Kevin Cope offered LSU’s information and comments (attached) regarding streamlining the Gen Ed Requirements. He also reviewed a comparative grid of Gen Requirements, broken out by institution, in the LSU System (attached).
  - SUS - Margaret Ambrose reported Jacqueline Howard-Matthews would be available to report at the next meeting after completion of a time-sensitive accreditation project.Reports were followed by general discussion, including:
  - Statistical tracking of freshmen and transfer students
  - Varying agendas and groups wanting to drive the process

- Former degree structure accepted by BoR must be updated and increased to the allotted 39 hours.
- Transfer of credits for sequential courses
- Importance of faculty-driven endorsement of 39 hour degree rather than being top-down driven
- LAICU appreciates the chance to participate but is not mandated to comply; up to each private college to choose.
- Louisiana College is reviewing core curriculum and can work within the proposed framework.
- More broadly defined block categories would contribute to ease of transfer; adjust for lists specific to AAS or AS degrees.
- Important for students to receive information and advice in advance of selecting proper courses appropriate for desired degree and transfer.
- Communications Committee soon to be formed for the work of rolling out new plan, issues to address for students, high school and college counselors.
- Chair Gargano recognized the good work in crafting 2+2 types of transfer and wants agreement on what the 39 credits are; members are asked to check the standards of their system/institution and report at the October meeting; the next phase of inventory will be very demanding; difficult to reach consensus.
- Conversations on the horizon for the provosts and this group will be “*what makes this course essential?*”
- Everything is up for question and review – courses, flagship, alignment of courses, and the real purpose of gen ed.
- Experience of faculty pushback lessened with advance meeting and addressing concerns as well as with strong chancellor and system support.
- Address issue of courses required by outside accreditation/agencies and requirements of a specific field (example: engineering).
- Issue of perception of varying worth of different degrees when out-of-state degrees are readily accepted
- Possibility of reviewing a comprehensive course listing or a smaller university-acceptable list.
- Necessity of significant compromises to achieve the articulation agreement.
- Chair Gargano reiterated strong Council support at on-campus discussions; ready availability to assist.
- Important that CAOs be fully informed and have strong role in this process; be invited to Council meetings

**4. Preparation of Progress Report for Senator Nevers and the Education Committee:**

- Review of items and handouts to be included in presentation binder
- Timeline reviewed and importance of timely accomplishment by deadlines emphasized.

**5. Additional Committees – Structure and Recommendations**

- Communications Committee recommendations will be forthcoming; need at least the 4 systems represented
- Requested addition of qualitative measure of transfer
- Suggested National Student Clearinghouse annual report for data; need for funding

**6. Other Topics for Discussion.** Request for consideration of career diploma courses

**7. Next Steps/Future Meetings.**

- Chair Gargano reiterated strong Council support at on-campus discussions; ready availability to assist.
- Agreement need on what the 39 credits are; members are asked to check the standards of their system/institution and report at the October meeting
- Pursuit of utilization of National Student Clearinghouse data – funding?
- Emails will be sent with updates. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.