April 24, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Presidents

FROM: Eric G. Forbes
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Student Academic Support

SUBJECT: Articulation of CSU courses between CSU campuses

In response to several initiatives that are intended to reduce the number of “bottleneck” courses at each of our campuses, proposals have been received to re-design these courses in an on-line context and to make them available to students throughout the CSU. Drawing upon our experience with Early Start, the Chancellor’s Office will be engaged in updating its Intrasystem Concurrent Enrollment Policy as well as in automating the actual admission, enrollment, and grade reporting procedures. Questions about impacts on FTE and headcount will be answered in other communications.

In order for these on-line opportunities to be a genuine benefit for students, the courses involved must first be reviewed by each of the other campuses for possible articulation either as fulfilling lower division major requirements or general education. If no equivalency can be determined, then this condition must also be identified and made public. As we have been investing in Project Assist for years as the repository for course articulations between community colleges and the campuses of the CSU, Project Assist will now become the repository for determinations between each of our CSU campuses. Links will be established between a system-wide schedule of classes for on-line courses and Project Assist in order for students to be able to know in advance of enrolling how these on-line courses from other CSU campuses will be accommodated at their home campus. As the enrollments are considered resident credit, at minimum their successful completion will result in elective credit.
Many of our CSU campuses already articulate courses with other CSU campuses in Project Assist, but this work has been limited in scope. Other campuses have not moved in this direction and may have had reasons to center their published articulations to community college work only. Now that we are moving into an age of expanded access to courses across our system, particularly on-line courses, it is imperative that we first begin to articulate these on-line courses and post the appropriate determinations in Project Assist. Articulation officers need not limit their consideration to the redesigned courses only, nor to on-line courses only, but clearly each campus needs to review the redesigned and on-line courses before they are published in a statewide schedule. We will also be looking at ways to automate a CSU to CSU articulation procedure in the next several months in order to facilitate a thorough but accelerated review.

At the moment, however, there are presently four on-line courses that will be offered by San Jose State University this summer that may attract students throughout the system. In order to avoid significant confusion as well as the processing of many substitution-waiver requests from participating students, it is reasonable that your articulation officers review these courses as soon as possible. In order to expedite this review process, the course outlines for these four courses are attached. The link to the SJSU Plus site is: http://www.sjsu.edu/plus/. If you need additional information about these courses, you will need to contact Terri Eden, the Articulation Officer at San Jose State University. If not, then you need only complete the review by posting the results in Project Assist and probably in your degree audit articulation tables.

Based on the pre-RFP course submissions, we estimate that courses from as many as 15 of the 22 "bottleneck" subject areas are already on-line and scalable for enrollment by students across the system. These specific courses will need to be reviewed by articulation officers before students from other campuses enroll. As details about these courses as well as courses subject to re-design become known through the RFP procedure, the course outlines will be provided.

We intend to discuss this development, the future procedure, and other related matters with the Articulation Officers at our CIC meeting at the end of the week. We are sending this memo now, however, to bring you into dialog about this important topic.

If you have any questions, please contact Nathan Evans, Director of Enrollment Management at (562) 951-4726, nevans@calstate.edu or Karen Simpson-Alisca at (562) 951-4715, ksimpson-alisca@calstate.edu.

Attachments

c: Dr. Ephraim P. Smith, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer
   Provosts/Vice Presidents, Academic Affairs
   Associate Vice Presidents, Academic Affairs
   Articulation Officers