COMPASS STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

November 5, 2004 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. District Office – Board Room

I. Presentation on Web based COMPASS Testing

Debra FitzGerald, Midwest consultant from ACT, gave a presentation on web based COMPASS Testing. Some were disappointed to find that remote web based testing would still need to be proctored at OCC for security reasons.

II. MTELP exemptions for students who have taken TOEFL

The following proposal from the ESL discipline to the COMPASS Steering Committee on ESL assessment was made:

• A student may be exempt from taking the MTELP and be able to enroll in ENGLISH 1510 if she/he presents an official TOEFL score of 550 (or computer-based TOEFL score of 213) and an official TWE score of 5.0. Both official scores must be presented to appropriate college personnel in order to be exempt.

A TOEFL score of 550 and a TWE score of 5.0 are average scores for most colleges. It is believed that most students can handle the task demands of most college courses with these scores.

It was noted that the TWE score is now factored into the COMPASS based TOEFL score, but Mike Khirallah will provide further clarification.

The proposal from the ESL discipline is being held until the next meeting. Carla will take this recommendation to George Keith for further consideration.

The Assessment/Requisite Exemption form is being revised by the campus Directors' of Student Services in order to simplify the form. The committee has suggested the creation of two separate forms – one for prerequisites and one for placement.

III. Other

Sally Hanna noted that the partnership breakfast with the Waterford high school counselors is a great opportunity for OCC to promote programs.

However, at a recent meeting, the counselors mentioned a problem with dual enrollment students regarding how to communicate grades back to the high school at the end of the semester. In the past, high schools received a copy of the report card, but students can now obtain a copy of their grades through the WEB to give to high school officials. Carla and the Directors will meet with some recruiters and the Registrar to ensure that the communication to high school counselors is sufficient and the Admissions Application provides appropriate procedures.

Currently, non-U.S. bachelor degree students must go through an assessment process. WES or ECE have not been used for exemption purposes. This requirement has recently been changed. WES or ECE evaluations will be accepted as a US degree and these students will receive the same exemptions as non foreign students. Some committee members believe this is an academic issue and should be addressed with the Academic Senate.

Two concerns were addressed regarding the use of WES or ECE for exemption purposes.

- Linguistic concerns
- Cultural concerns (academic culture varies)

It was noted that students are not exempt from ENG 1510 and ENG 1520 who have WES or ECE certification here at OCC.

Kelli Van Buren and Katherine Lichtenberg will work on the written directions regarding the use of calculators for Math COMPASS and will then meet with Kathy Chiasson for any additional input.

Next meeting: March 25, 2005

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

District Office – Board Room