

PLACEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

Friday, October 6, 2006
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
District Office – Board Room

Meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm. Present were: John Mitchell, Kathy Chiasson, Charlotte Couch, Doug Riddering, Sally Hanna, Kelli VanBuren, Wanda Harris, Steve Reif.

I. NEW BUSINESS

A. English Practice Test Revisions

Wendy Hedstron, English tutor from Auburn Hills IIC, submitted a copy of the current COMPASS English practice test found on the OCC website and made the following suggestions for revision: 1) Switch the first passage (Sample Practical Reading Passage) with the second passage (Sample Humanities Passage) due to degree of difficulty in order to put the easier one first. 2) On page 3, Item 4 refers to the reading sample having two paragraphs; however, there is only one paragraph. Also, the term “Cohesive Devices” is an unfamiliar phrase to many students and she suggests that this be replaced with “transitional phrases” or “transitions.” It was recommended that the term be consistent with what COMPASS uses.

John Mitchell supports the changes and will discuss this with the English department on Discipline Day. John will also check to see if ACT has an updated sample test. If not, the discipline may need to rewrite their own practice test just as the math department did.

Sally Hanna requested that the AH IIC work with John Mitchell to note the changes and make the corrections to the form. When this is done, it will be sent to Leanne Nadlicki for e-mail distribution and committee vote for approval.

B. COMPASS Test Comparison Stats

Auburn Hills IIC submitted a report indicating an increase in the amount of college-wide COMPASS testing from July 10 – September 7, 2006 compared to July 11 – September 8, 2005. Several factors contribute to this increase: 1) The availability of walk-in testing 2) Removal of the one-semester grace period beginning Winter 2007 semester. There was also a slight increase in the number of ACT scores entered (manually). Sally Hanna requested a query to report the number of new students (Fall 2006) who took the COMPASS test compared to those using ACT scores for placement.

The ACT test will be mandatory for all high school seniors (replacing MEAP) beginning this academic year; therefore, we may begin to see an increase in ACT scores being used for placement instead of COMPASS testing in the future. The IT department is still working on the automatic upload of ACT scores.

II. UPDATE ON COMPLETED PROJECTS

A. Conversion of ACT math scores to equivalent college placement scores

The placement grid for ACT math scores which went into effect on July 5, 2006 was distributed. Doug Riddering indicated that the ACT scores for both Math & English will be changing and they will be similar to SAT, but the new scores are not online yet. It was suggested that Karen Hager, adjunct counselor from HL who is also a high school counselor, be invited to the next meeting to discuss these changes. Kathy Chiasson stated that she is unaware of any changes and stressed that she will need approval from her discipline before any changes can be made. She warned that this may take a significant length of time as it did in the recent approval of the current ACT scores. Sally Hanna requested that Leanne Nadlicki check into this and that she send the information to Kathy Chiasson & John Mitchell before Discipline Day on Friday, October 13, 2006.

B. Exemption statements in college catalog and schedule of classes

A copy of the Winter 2007 schedule of classes (page 15) under COMPASS Mathematics Placement showing the bulleted item referring to the acceptance of ACT scores was distributed. The 2007-2008 college catalog will have this same update.

C. Assessment Exemption Placement Grid

The updated ASSESS.XMP placement grid showing the recommended editorial changes along with the requested removal of the placement score of “3” which generated placement into ENG-1510 for an “Equivalent Course to ENG-1060” because there isn’t one was distributed.

Discussion regarding the permanent exemption given to college guest students (score of 5). The committee would like a query run to show the level of performance / success rate for these students from 2005-2006. Sally Hanna suggested contacting Mark Woods from IR as he has worked with similar data for the TEAM group. The committee would also like know if there is a way to make the guest exemption expire after one semester instead of being permanent in case they come back as a regular student. A decision was made to contact other institutions to see how they handle guest students in regard to placement and exempting them from prerequisites. The following institutions will be contacted: Lansing CC- Sally Hanna, Washtenaw CC – Wanda Harris, Macomb CC – Doug Riddering, Schoolcraft CC & Henry Ford CC – Kelli VanBuren,

C. Update of COMPASS English Scores

The updated score sheet which went into effect on 4-24-06 was distributed. John Mitchell reported that there were 86 students who placed below ENG-1055. Thirteen of those students are in the TEAM program. 46.4% of students placed into developmental English (ENG-1055 or ENG-1060).

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Kathy Chiasson inquired as to whether or not it was necessary to update math course descriptions in the college catalog to include the acceptance of ACT scores in the

prerequisite. The committee did not recommend this as it is covered in the catalog as an exemption from testing.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm. Next meeting – TBA. It was strongly suggested that the next meeting be scheduled for the end of November or beginning of December.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leanne M. Nadlicki

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Recording Secretary