

MINUTES
ARTICULATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
August 20, 2003

A meeting of the Articulation Coordinating Committee was held on Wednesday, August 20, 2003, in Room 1703 of the Turlington Building, Tallahassee, Florida.

The following persons attended:

Members Present	Mr. John Winn, Division of ARM, DOE, Chairperson Dr. R. E. LeMon, Division of Colleges and Universities Mr. Ronald Blocker, Orange County Schools Ms. Mary Jo Butler, Division of Public Schools (for Ms. Betty Coxe) Ms. Brenda Dickinson, Home Education Foundation Dr. Willis Holcombe, Broward Community College Dr. Theresa Klebacha, Division of Community Colleges, DOE Ms. Sally Kiser, Division of Workforce Development (for Dr. Nancy Cordell) Dr. R. E. LeMon, Division of Colleges and Universities Dr. Edwin Massey, Indian River Community College Mr. Joseph McCoy, Member-at-Large Dr. Martha Pelaez, Florida International University Mr. Jim Patch, FAPSC Dr. Mark Rosenberg, Florida International University Ms. Pam Saylor, Lake County Schools
Members Absent	Dr. Charlene Callahan, New College of Florida Dr. Nancy Cordell, Division of Workforce Development, DOE Ms. Betty Coxe, Division of Public Schools, DOE Dr. Arthur Kirk, Jr., Saint Leo University
Others Present	Dr. Juan R. Abascal, Miami-Dade College Dr. Harry Albertson, FACC Ms. Julie Alexander, Division of ARM, DOE Mr. Martin Balinsky, Division of ARM, DOE Mr. Matthew Bouck, Division of ARM, DOE Mr. Bryan Conrad, OPPAGA Ms. Pat Frohe, Division of Community Colleges, DOE Ms. Kathleen A. Gamble, Palm Beach Community College Ms. Connie Graunke, FACTS.org Dr. David Gupta, Miami-Dade County Public Schools Dr. Laura Hébert, Division of ARM, DOE Ms. Donna Henderson, Broward Community College Mr. Bruce A. Janasiewicz, Florida State University Ms. Nell Kelly, Division of Colleges and Universities, DOE Ms. Sharon Koon, Division of ARM, DOE Mr. Bill McCray, Florida A & M University Ms. JoAnn McGonagill, Bright Futures Scholarship Program Ms. Diann Morell, Florida Association of District School Superintendents Dr. Lená Morgan, Pensacola Junior College Ms. Kay Noble, Polk County Schools Ms. Lynda Page, Division of Colleges and Universities, DOE Mr. Jay Pfeiffer, Division of ARM, DOE Mr. Vern Pickup-Crawford, Palm Beach School District Dr. Jon Rogers, Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement Ms. Rhonda Rolle, Division of ARM, DOE Dr. Beverly Sermons, Division of Community Colleges, DOE

Dr. Heather Sherry, Division of Community Colleges, DOE
Dr. Travis Spaulding, Seminole Community College
Ms. Ann Stallings, Division of ARM, DOE
Dr. Richard Stevens, Division of Colleges and Universities
Ms. Martha Upchurch, Pearson Education Technologies
Ms. Barbara White, Division of ARM, DOE
Dr. John Wiegman, Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement

03-01
Chairperson's
Comments

Chairman Winn welcomed Dr. Laura Hébert to the Florida Department of Education and the ACC. Dr. Hébert is the newest staff member of the Office of Articulation and will coordinate the work of the ACC. Her experience at Valencia Community College will be an asset to the ACC.

Chairman Winn gave an overview of the August 19, 2003, State Board meeting including details about the budget approval, transfer of credit rule approval, and an extensive discussion on enrollment growth and the class size amendment. The Board charged the Florida Department of Education and the Commissioner with conducting a comprehensive analysis of the implications relating to implementation of the class size initiative.

03-02
Approval of
Minutes of Meeting
Held May 21, 2003

Chairman Winn asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2003, meeting. So moved and seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

03-03
Dual Enrollment
Courses Meeting 1.0
High School
Graduation
Requirements

In 2002, the State Board of Education approved a list of one-semester postsecondary courses in mathematics, natural science, and foreign language, completed through dual enrollment, that would be awarded a full year of credit for high school graduation. In his presentation to the ACC, Mr. Matthew Bouck built on the courses approved in 2002 by offering for approval the list of English dual enrollment courses that also would satisfy one credit toward high school graduation. The list of courses was a result of the work of a faculty committee consisting of university, community college and district representatives. The faculty committee reviewed course syllabi in order to determine if the college course met competencies or content required in the high school courses.

Chairman Winn requested a motion that each of the courses listed should receive 1.0 credit for rigor and content based on the faculty committee determination. Dr. Theresa Klebacha moved that the courses on the list should all equal 1.0 high school English credit. Mr. Patch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bouck provided an additional listing of courses that should also be accepted as 1.0 high school credit in English. He explained that the additional courses are very similar to those passed, and are considered alternate courses.

Chairman Winn amended the motion to allow for the additional courses to be added to the list.

03-04
HB 1739,
Acceleration Study

House Bill 1739, passed by the 2003 Florida Legislature, requires the State Board of Education to conduct a review of the extent to which acceleration mechanisms are currently utilized by school districts and public postsecondary institutions. The State Board of Education should submit a report of findings to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2003.

Dr. Heather Sherry described the seven areas that the study will cover including advising, access/availability, grading practices, general education requirements,

class size, funding and credit by exam.

The ACC Task Force is charged with fact finding and issue identification and will gather data and issues in time for the ACC to prepare a final report with recommendations for State Board of Education approval.

Chairman Winn asked for additional information and data for the October 15th ACC meeting, which will be devoted to the topic of acceleration. Dr. Holcombe stated that he would like to see data for passing rates on AP and IB exams for the October meeting.

Mr. Ronald Blocker asked if the online survey would collect information from students who have completed acceleration programs. He is interested in student opinion on the rigor of the courses. Dr. Sherry said this had not been considered but the Department of Education has data on student success for completers.

Dr. Edwin Massey asked if escrowed credit accounts would be included in this acceleration study. These are postsecondary credits earned according to local articulation agreements and are awarded only after successful completion of 12 credit hours. Dr. Sherry believed these courses should be addressed as acceleration options under a miscellaneous category.

Chairman Winn stated that he would like at least one ACC member working on each ACC Task Force. He stated that there is a need for extensive data analysis and supplemental qualification information that will be used as a framework for the options. This analysis will assist the ACC in preparation to analyze possible alternatives and the best way to move forward to provide consistency for all.

Ms. Brenda Dickinson would like clarification and exploration of the issues related to weighting of AP and IB courses when students choose to not take the exam.

Mr. Joseph McCoy inquired about CLEP courses and high school credit. Currently, students passing CLEP exams are not awarded high school credit. Ms. Butler added that CLEP exams meet course requirements but do not meet the high school credit requirement. Mr. McCoy asked that this be addressed in the study. Mr. Winn questioned further about the CLEP meeting general education requirement. Dr. Rosenberg confirmed that students passing a CLEP exam receive postsecondary credit, general education credit, if applicable, but no grade.

The ACC will continue this discussion at a workshop on October 15, 2003.

03-05
K-20 Data/Records

The FASTER/STRES Committee met on June 9, 2003, and the ACC residency Committee met on July 22, 2003. Ms. Connie Graunke was asked to report to the ACC on items addressed by these committees.

Ms. Graunke first reported on the FASTER/STRES Committee. She explained to the members that funding for the common electronic transcript and the SAT/ACT Test Scores database was part of the old FIRN budget that no longer exists. This database supports Bright Futures, Talented Twenty, High School Academic Evaluations on www.FACTS.org, and access by postsecondary institutions to SAT/ACT test scores. It is also the database that is used to facilitate direct communication with students and their parents, including the 9th grade letter and FCAT senior alternatives. The database maintenance will receive funding from the Bright Futures budget.

Ms. Graunke cited State Board Rule 6A-10.024, which requires schools to electronically transmit transcripts by December 1, 1991. There are still some public postsecondary schools and school districts that are not sending transcripts electronically. Ms. Graunke is contacting those institutions and districts to determine the problem and working with them to prepare their data for electronic submission. Ms. Graunke also reported that the database is being amended to include CPT and PSAT scores. Ms. Graunke also stated that there have been discussions to change transcripts to include the new accelerated high school diplomas.

Ms. Graunke next reported on the meeting of the ACC Residency Committee. Ms. Graunke provided information about the variation in residency procedures among institutions. Currently, residency is outlined in one statute and one rule for all institutions but variation occurs at institutions in the implementation. At the November ACC meeting, the Residency Committee will provide the ACC with a rule amendment to 6A-10.044, FAC; guidelines for institutions; and a standardized residency form. Approval will be requested by the ACC on each of these items.

Chairman Winn commented on the inconsistencies in practice for residency versus the consistent policies. He thanked the Residency Committee for their efforts and looked forward to their recommendations at the November meeting.

Ms. Graunke mentioned that with the passing of Senate Bill 30A, FACTS.org is working to align with the new accelerated diploma options. Chairman Winn recognized the important role FACTS.org is playing in the districts.

03-06
Statewide Course
Numbering System
Issues

Mr. Bouck provided members with a proposal to “enhance the transfer of lower-level courses.” Mr. Bouck initiated this discussion item by providing a brief description of the Statewide Course Numbering System’s (SCNS) functions and procedures. The SCNS is a database of postsecondary courses where equivalencies are maintained based on content. Faculty Discipline Committees and Faculty Coordinators ensure course equivalencies. Dr. R.E. LeMon asked why there are 166 discipline areas and how they were established. Mr. Bouck explained the process for creating and deleting discipline areas. Dr. Rosenberg stated that there should be more areas based on the rate of new content and technology. Mr. Bouck explained that new areas are added to meet the growing needs of new curriculum.

Mr. Bouck explained the classification system and that a course is automatically transferable based on its placement at a statewide course number. An institution course that is the only one at a statewide number is considered unique and SCNS does not guarantee transfer.

The SCNS is interested in exploring the possibility of increasing transfer by aligning

institution content and reducing the number of statewide courses. Mr. Bouck used a history course as an example of unnecessary content duplication based on content cut-off dates in history courses. Different statewide numbers were assigned for very similar courses because there is a slight variation in the historical time periods covered in the course. The SCNS is also interested in reviewing the criteria for equivalency, which would result in the aligning of similar content as well. Mr. Bouck said that the SCNS should be used as a tool by institutions to obtain information about course transfer prior to submitting new course requests.

Mr. Bouck also explained that the SCNS would like to review the variation among institutions in their general education programs and Gordon Rule offerings. Several examples were examined.

In the interest of time, Chairman Winn asked that Ms. Koon and Mr. Bouck prepare a questionnaire to be sent to ACC Members to indicate areas for further review.

03-07
High School
Graduation Options

Ms. Butler stated that SB 30A, the Quality of Education Act, requires school districts to inform parents and students of acceleration options, aligns state university admissions requirements with high school graduation requirements, and requires districts to provide students the opportunity to select the accelerated high school diploma option. The three-year, 18 credit hour graduation option must meet university admission requirements. All accelerated students must pass the FCAT and maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Ms. Butler outlined several concerns with the accelerated degree option including the rigor of the three-year programs, the student's psychological/sociological readiness for postsecondary education, the impact on acceleration programs like dual enrollment and Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate, and the space or accommodation issues at community colleges and universities.

Chairman Winn asked that the ACC Task Force working on the HB 1739 Acceleration Study advise the Commissioner on accelerated options using the results of the study. He asked if there was data on the number of students opting for the 18-credit/three year diploma. There is no data at this time. He also asked if the out-of-state requirements had been examined to determine the impact for students wanting to attend out-of-state colleges.

Dr. Rosenberg raised the issue of non-curricular services that may suffer resulting from the students opting for the three-year high school diploma. There needs to be a mechanism in place to "monitor for the negative unintended consequences." He also voiced concern about the maturity of young students living in dormitories with older students.

Chairman Winn said that the State Board is interested in making the senior year of high school more rigorous and there will be additional discussion of these issues during the November ACC meeting.

03-08
K-20 Accountability
Update

Mr. Jay Pfeiffer explained that HB 915 requires that guidelines be established for K-20 performance standards and improvement by December 1, 2003. The districts will then have to report progress based on the standards in the following year. By December 1, 2004, ten percent of the proposed budgets must be driven by accountability.

In response to this legislation, the K-20 Accountability Task Force was formed. It is comprised of sector representatives from universities, community colleges, workforce and K-12. Each sector has a sub-task force. The K-20 Accountability Task Force met in Orlando on July 22, 2003 to review the law and outline current practices. Mr. Pfeiffer maintains that it is difficult to determine core measures across sectors and one of the most important steps will be to identify the "indicators" that measure the system goals. Indicators identified for the four goals are: 1. Highest Student Achievement- evidence of student learning; 2. Maximum Access and Seamless Articulation- evidence of access and evidence of readiness and progression to the next educational level; 3. Workforce and Economic Development- evidence of post program employment and earnings; and 4. Quality and efficient services- evidence of return on investment. Each sector is being asked to select the best measurement option for the each indicator. Mr. Pfeiffer discussed possible measures for the Highest Student Achievement Goal.

It was stated that Dr. Massey and Dr. Rosenberg both serve on the K-20 Accountability Task Force. Chairman Winn indicated that the Department of Education Policy Council members chair the sector task forces and are managing this process. Further information may be reviewed on the Department's homepage.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p. m.

Announcements: An ACC Workshop on Acceleration will be held on October 15, 2003, in Tallahassee, Florida in room 1721 in the Turlington Building.

The next ACC meeting will be held on November 19, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. in Tallahassee, Florida in the Turlington Building.

Minutes Prepared By: Sharon Koon, Director
Office of Articulation