

## **COTA Meeting Minutes May 2008**

### **Committee on Transfer and Articulation Missouri Department of Higher Education May 22, 2008**

**Participants:** Evelyn Jorgenson (Chair), Jeanie Crain, Arlen Dykstra, Mike Grelle, Steven Kurtz, Alton Lacey, Julia Leeman, Pam McIntyre, Kandis Smith

**COTA-AC Representative:** Melissa Hattman

**MDHE Staff:** Brian Crouse, Hillary Fuhrman, Jeremy Kintzel, B.J. White, Ken Winn, Julie Chapman, and Ken Vollmar

Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

#### **Consent Item**

##### **I. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Dr. Jeanie Crain and seconded by Dr. Steven Kurtz to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Old Business**

##### **II. Curriculum Alignment Initiative Update**

Ms. Hillary Fuhrman updated COTA on the status of the Curriculum Alignment Initiative (CAI). She stated that the Steering Committee has recently met and recognized that some of the competencies would need further refinement, particularly with regards to assessment language. There was further recognition that cross-disciplinary skill competencies should be developed, and Ms. Fuhrman stated that workgroups would convene to draft these competencies. Also meeting will be a small group to review the mathematics gap analyses that were completed in May. Dr. Mike Grelle noted that the CAI work brings to the forefront issues of how the general education competencies are assessed. Ms. Fuhrman stated that Steering Committee would be looking into how to align the work of CAI with the general education competencies. Dr. Crain noted that the assessment piece will need to occur quickly as the general education assessment may be a factor in performance funding.

Dr. Jorgenson asked if the competencies will be tied to developmental education. Ms. Fuhrman stated that while the competencies are not directly linked to developmental education they will have an affect on developmental education as the CAI is defining college readiness. Dr. Jorgenson noted that this may result in the range of scores used to place students in developmental education to be narrowed. Dr. Grelle stated that it may also necessitate redefining developmental education.

Ms. Fuhrman also reported that the Engineering and Information Technology workgroup is working on a set of competencies for students interested in METS fields. These competencies will be distinct from the general education competencies developed by the other workgroups as they will not be defining the minimal knowledge and skills necessary to enter college, but rather the optimal knowledge and skills needed to enter a METS field.

##### **III. Dual Credit Survey**

Dr. Jorgenson began by stating that the dual credit survey had been sent out to determine the state of dual credit in Missouri and to provide the opportunity to begin a climate of continuous improvement in dual credit.

Ms. Julie Chapman distributed the Preliminary Dual Credit Report that focused on key issues that COTA had been interested in. Ms. Chapman reported that all but one institution had responded and that she was working with that

institution to get their results as soon as possible. She also noted that those institutions that reported not offering dual credit were not included in the preliminary report and that a full report would follow for feedback from COTA.

Ms. Chapman noted that the major challenges in provided dual credit as reported by the institutions were: (1) replacing/recruiting qualified teachers, (2) Maintaining college-level rigor in the high school, and (3) providing professional development for the high school teachers.

Ms. Chapman stated that most institutions reported that 90-100% of their dual credit teachers met the requirements set forth in the Dual Credit Policy. There was agreement that those figures did not match up with the complaints that COTA members had been hearing about dual credit teachers. Ms. Chapman stated that some of the compliance could be teachers who were teaching dual credit prior to the 1999 Dual Credit Policy and were grandfathered in. Some schools may be including these grandfathered teachers in their compliance percentage. Ms. Pam McIntyre noted that she had heard of an institution that would give the high school student credit for a college-level course if they could pass the final exam if their high school teacher was not qualified to teach dual credit.

Dr. Jorgenson stated that COTA needed to start respectfully contacting institutions that may have problems with their dual credit programs. Dr. Steven Graham suggested calling the Chief Academic Officer directly.

COTA asked Mr. Jeremy Kintzel how many students were enrolled in dual credit programs. Mr. Kintzel responded that he did not collect that data, but that DESE's core data may have such information. Mr. Kintzel estimated that 15,000 high school students were enrolled by public institutions.

Ms. Chapman noted that math, the sciences, and foreign language were the subjects in which institutions struggled to find qualified instructors. Also that most discontinued courses were attributed to retirement.

Dr. Grelle asked if the Dual Credit Policy would be revisited. Dr. Jorgenson responded that it should be in order to address the challenges that institutions are facing when delivering dual credit.

## **New Business**

### **IV. COTA-AC Election Results**

Mr. B.J. White announced that the COTA-AC election had ended on May 15, and that 141 voters had participated and cast 326 votes. LaShanda Boone of Harris-Stowe State University, Melissa Hattman of the University of Missouri - St. Louis, and James Kralicek of Pinnacle Career Institute were elected to three year terms beginning in July 2008. Doug Couch of the University of Central Missouri was elected as an alternate and Bruce Miles of Metro Business College was elected as the Proprietary Alternate.

### **V. Articulation Survey**

Mr. Jeremy Kintzel reported that the Department of Higher Education had been asked to provide information regarding articulation agreements to the Missouri Auditor's Office, but that an official audit had not been opened. As a result Mr. Kintzel sent a survey to Missouri's public institutions asking them to report any formal and informal articulation agreement they have with other public institutions. Mr. Kintzel reported that all institutions had responded and that he and other MDHE staff were compiling the results. The results and a cover letter explaining the survey process and issues such as 42 hour general education block and the AAT would be sent to the Auditor's Office. Dr. Jorgenson asked Mr. Kintzel to keep COTA apprised of any further inquiries into transfer and articulation and of further developments with the Auditor's Office.

### **VI. 2009 Transfer Conference**

Mr. Kintzel stated that he had contacted the Holiday Inn in Columbia and that additional rooms were available. He also noted that the date of the conference might need to be moved from the last Wednesday of January to accommodate the site's schedule. COTA decided that the conference would take place on Friday, January 30, 2009.

COTA also voiced support for allowing participants to break up into a variety of groupings, to actively participate earlier in the day, and to find a way to keep participants there for the whole day.

## **VII. Proprietary Credit Transfer**

Ms. Melissa Hattman, Chair, COTA-AC, reported that COTA-AC members had expressed interest in discussing the ways in which institutions evaluate and transfer credits from proprietary institutions. Ms. Hattman stated that COTA-AC felt that it was important to look at equity and fairness when evaluating these credits. She also noted that COTA-AC wished to make this a primary focus of its discussions over the next year and would like to look at getting better resources for students that transfer from a proprietary institution. Ms. Hattman also asked about the situation in which a student transfers from a proprietary school to a community college and then to a four-year institutions and has earned some general education credits at the proprietary institution. Dr. Jorgenson responded that if the community college accepted the credit as part of the 42-hour block then the four-year university could not pick apart the 42-hour block in order to not accept the proprietary credit, if the student has completed an AA degree. Dr. Grelle asked how this situation would affect specialized accreditations, for example business programs accredited by the AACSB. Ms. Hattman responded that there was no clear cut process to determine how this type of transfer would affect specialized accreditation.

### **Other**

Dr. Jorgenson introduced Ms. Julia Leeman, president of Sanford-Brown College and stated that she was a new member of COTA and would be assuming Ms. Karen Finkeneller's seat on the committee.

COTA requested that all COTA minutes be sent to presidents, chancellors and CAO's after they are approved by COTA.

### **Next Meeting**

The next COTA meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. via conference call.