

**Council of Chief Academic Officers
Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2014**

In Attendance

Brent Bates	State Fair Community College
Glenn Coltharp	Crowder College
Deborah Curtis	University of Central Missouri
Arlen Dykstra	Missouri Baptist University
Mindy Selsor	Jefferson College
David Russell	MDHE
Rusty Monhollon	MDHE
Elizabeth Valentine	MDHE
Jennifer Plemons	MDHE
Dwyane Smith	Harris-Stowe State University
Bill Eddleman	Southeast Missouri State University
Douglas Dunham	Rockhurst University
Steven Graham	University of Missouri System

Absent

Vicki Schwinke	Linn State Technical College
Donna Dare	St. Louis Community College

I. Call to Order

A. Welcome

Rusty called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. He mentioned that Donna Dare will be the new community college CCAO representative. She will attend future meetings of the CCAO.

II. Updates and Reports

A. Minutes: July 2014 Meeting

There were no additional comments or corrections to the July minutes, and so they were approved.

B. MABEP

There was a recent meeting earlier in September for MABEP. The general consensus now after 3 meetings is that DESE seems to be listening more attentively now to the concerns of Higher Ed, and that seems to indicate that real progress is being made. Higher Ed will continue to move things forward and continue to actively collaborate as much as possible with DESE. Rusty spoke about the Pearson assessments, and mentioned that no one party seems to have any great concern over the assessments, but that those conversations will continue. Glenn Coltharp mentioned that he has been pleased with DESE's openness and willingness to discuss the Pearson assessments. Glenn spoke of one issue that may specifically affect those schools in St. Louis and Kansas City. The issue is that of videotaping teaching sessions, and several individuals have concerns with this. This issue has not been resolved as of yet and will continue to be discussed. Some schools are saying that they simply will not allow it to happen. Higher Ed was concerned with the rater-reliability of the videotaping, and suggested that a better solution may be to send someone into the classroom that has gone through extensive training to observe the teaching. K-12 felt that this was a good suggestion. More discussion on this issue is forthcoming.

There are still some other issues that are unresolved as well. For example, scores have not yet been set yet for the MoGEA, and this may end up being a contentious issue. More discussions on this matter will ensue in the coming months.

C. Reverse Transfer

Rusty provided the council with a quick update of reverse transfer and mentioned the Reverse Transfer Launch that took place on Sept 16. The launch went very well and this launch means that all participating institutions now have a reverse transfer agreement with one another. The Reverse Transfer Steering Committee will no longer exist as a formal committee come January 2015. COTA will take over the many elements of reverse transfer and will handle any issues regarding reverse transfer going forward.

The Department gave Lumina Funds received through the Credit When It's Due grant to the National Student Clearinghouse to assist in transmitting data back and forth among institutions where reverse transfer is concerned.

D. SARA

Rusty mentioned that the department has filed the CSR for SARA and it is currently in the public comment period. Once the rule filing process is complete, the SARA rules will officially be in place. There is a special CBHE meeting in November for several issues that cannot wait until the December CBHE meeting. The board will

discuss performance funding, and the endorsement for the authority for the department to apply for and join SARA formally. Once we become members, we will have to outline and determine the process for how institutions will participate, what will joining look like, what will the fees look like, etc. It is likely that there will be some administrative fees and the department will have to determine what that fee will be.

The goal for the department is to hopefully start taking applications sometime in spring 2015, once the rule is properly in place. There are still several issues that will need to be worked through, however. One issue may be that of the complaint process. The department has to ensure that we have a process in place for students to appeal, etc. Or at the very least, to ensure that some type of complaint process exists. The other issue pertains to how department will go about providing oversight of these other institutions offering courses to Missouri students.

E. Dual Credit Workgroup

Rusty discussed the progress to date regarding the review of the department's dual credit policy. The dual credit workgroup will meet again on Monday, November 10 and will continue to discuss several aspects of the policy, including student eligibility, faculty qualifications and accountability and oversight of dual credit programs in Missouri. Several council members expressed that they felt the policy was too vague in its current form and suggested a tighter, more prescriptive policy where guidelines are clearly expressed. Rusty mentioned the idea of creating our own accreditation process within the state for dual credit. This accreditation process would involve a small group of nominated individuals, all of whom are intimately familiar with dual credit, along with a department representative. They would review dual credit programs in the state on a regular, rotating basis. The state would identify this team of people that would visit institutions and assess compliance and quality of dual credit programs. Most council members were receptive to this idea, and felt that it would be an effective way to monitor the quality of dual credit programs in the state. Rusty expressed that the council will discuss dual credit again more thoroughly at the January meeting and will provide all members with a copy of the dual credit policy with the new language that has been incorporated to date by the dual credit workgroup.

III. Old Business

A. Math Summit/Pathways Project

Rusty briefly spoke about the mathematics summit that took place on Sept 12. He mentioned that there was good turnout at the summit, and many who attended the summit would like to see the discussion continue moving forward in the state. We now have a math pathways taskforce that will be guided and provided assistance by Complete College America and the Charles A. Dana Center at UT-Austin, which is headed by Uri Treisman. Rusty mentioned that he is still looking for a few additional members for the math pathways task force, and hopes to get the task force up to full speed as soon as possible.

Rusty mentioned that he met with the Missouri Association of Faculty Senate recently where alternative mathematics pathways were discussed. He mentioned that the overarching goal here is that college algebra should not be the gateway course for all degrees, and we should explore other math courses that may serve students better. There have been many skeptics where this issue is concerned, as there should be. However, as the conversation moves forward, there is a lot of potential. Ohio Board of Regents and University of Georgia System has implemented alternative pathways, so we can look to them to for guidance and for what is going on and where the benefits are.

B. Best Practices in Remediation

Rusty guided the council members through the draft placement guidelines document regarding remedial education. One of the central reasons to have this statewide placement policy is so that we can communicate clearly to students what higher ed deems to be the minimum requirements to begin college-level, credit-bearing coursework.

The centerpiece of this placement policy is the use of multiple measures to assess and place students into credit-bearing courses, which this group has discussed on several occasions. Many institutions are already doing this, so for many, it is nothing new. The purpose behind the use of multiple measures is that the idea of relying on a single, high-stakes assessment to determine where a student is placed is unfair to students and a contributing factor to higher rates of remedial education that affects persistence and completion. Institutions can decide what measures best fit their needs and what they have at their disposal. But there should be more than one measure to assess where a student should be placed in mathematics and English. This placement policy will be in effect starting fall 2015, and should be utilized for the placement of students starting fall 2015.

The Task Force has not yet completed its work regarding a threshold score. The group will continue its discussions and work on threshold scores in the coming months and into early 2015.

C. Transfer Course Library

Rusty briefly discussed the transfer library. He mentioned that the department has met the statutory mandate, and we now have 26 courses in the transfer library to date. We do not want to stop there, however, and so we are trying to work through a process for both reviewing new courses and adding courses to the library. Rusty also guided the council through the draft policy for the core transfer library, which outlines the process for adding and reviewing these future courses. The department is thinking of using the Committee on Curriculum and Assessment as the vessel for reviewing this policy and also for assisting with the process of adding to the transfer library. Rusty mentioned that he will be sending this draft policy out as an attachment to all CAOs and ask them to review it and to also share it with others on their campus. Once this review is complete, the CCAO will take up the policy again in January for discussion. Rusty mentioned that the department would like to present this policy to the CBHE June 2015.

IV. New Business

A. Competency-Based Education

MCCA and the Department received an in-kind grant from CAEL. There is a workshop being held in Branson, MO on November 5 to begin work on this effort. Rusty mentioned that he will make sure to report on what was discussed in Branson at the January CCAO meeting. The Governor's Office is also very interested in competency-based education. They recently received a \$2 million grant that will go towards competency-based education. \$1 million of that grant will go to innovation campus and to new or existing partnerships, including public or independent community colleges, K-12 districts or businesses. The other \$1 million is earmarked for new competency-based programs. However, the Governor's office is only allowing this for Bachelor's degrees and graduate degrees.

Southern New Hampshire created a separate entity on their campus to look over and provide guidance on competency-based education. Wisconsin University system is also tackling competency-based education and doing some very innovative things. Also, Western Governors University is doing some things regarding competency based education really well, especially in terms of assessments. Some students are

simply better served by places like WGU and the like, and so we need to really take a look at this and be involved in the process as it moves forward.

B. Coordinated Plan & Mission Review

Dr. Russell guided the council through a discussion of the department's strategic planning process. The department has recently come up on its five-year mission review and will have to undergo this review in the next year. The department has also been working towards creating a new strategic plan for the last several years, and has now recently embarked on a new strategic planning process. The department and the CBHE will produce a new document that will replace the imperatives for change document. This new strategic process will involve much more of the public and interested constituents' concerns. The CBHE is appointing a steering committee, which is now up to 34 members. This steering committee will conduct public hearings in each region of the state to gather the public's concern of higher education issues.

Dr. Russell asked council members for suggestions of people they may feel would be excellent to serve on such a steering committee. He asked them to think of whom they would suggest and to please let the department know that information as soon as possible. In December, the department will announce the composition of the steering committee and will then soon after have its first public hearing. The hearings will consist of 30 minutes of the host giving their thoughts and concerns regarding higher education with the other hour or two consisting of presentations from other interested parties that the department and the CBHE will most likely invite. There will be a certain amount of time needed to bring everyone up to speed and on the same page before these public hearings will be successful.

C. New Academic Program Review

Rusty discussed academic program review with the council members. The process as it currently exists involves institutions sending in new programs with the department then reviewing those new programs while also sending them out for public comment. We rarely ever receive any comments from the public, and the department feels it does not have the all of the necessary information to truly review and approve these new programs. There are many issues and questions to consider when reviewing new programs, such as, does the state already have this kind of program, and will this be a duplication of a program that already exists, should there be only one of these types of programs in the state. Rusty mentioned the idea of having a separate panel to provide the department with guidance where the review and approval of new programs is concerned. This panel would act much like an advisory board to the

department. Rusty asked the council what they thought about reconfiguring the Committee on Curriculum and Assessment to include more members that could help the committee assist with the review process of academic programs. Many council members felt that that could be a viable option. June 2016 will be when the first programs that we gave conditional approval to back in June 2011 will be up for their 5-year review process. Rusty mentioned that the CCA and the department will continue to discuss this issue and will have some other options on the table to consider in the months to come.

V. Big Issues

A. Performance Funding

The council members briefly discussed performance funding and the performance funding formula, and how best we can go about meeting the letter of the law where this issue is concerned. Many members expressed sincere concern regarding the additional institutional performance measure that is set to measure student job placement in a field or position associated with the student's degree level and pursuit of graduate degree. Several council members felt that this should not be included in a performance funding model, and expressed hope that the legislature will in time see that this is not an accurate measure with regard to performance funding, and will no longer seek to utilize it.

B. Taking Stock of the CCAO

Rusty asked the council how they felt the CCAO was progressing and if the group was meeting its objectives and clearly and effectively communicating information to other entities on and across campuses. Most council members felt that the CCAO was an important committee and helpful in terms of keeping them abreast of the important issues. Many members felt that they could possibly disseminate the information discussed during the CCAO meetings more effectively on their campuses. Rusty mentioned that he and his staff will provide the council members with the agenda and previous meeting minutes in a timelier manner so as to assist the members with disseminating the information discussed more effectively.

VI. Announcements

A. Next CCAO Meeting

The next CCAO meeting will be on January 21, 2015 in Jefferson City at the Governor's Office Building, Room 460.

B. Other Meetings of interest/note

Other meetings of interest include:

CBHE – November 4, 2014

Dual Credit Workgroup – Nov 10, 2014

TCCR – November 21, 2014

CCA – November 21, 2014

CBHE – December 4, 2014

COTA Transfer Conference – February 12-13, 2014

VII. Adjournment

DRAFT