

COTA Meeting Minutes September 2008

Committee on Transfer and Articulation Missouri Department of Higher Education September 24, 2008

Participants: Evelyn Jorgenson (Chair), Jeanie Crain, Arlen Dykstra , Mike Grelle, Steve Kurtz, Alton Lacey, Julia Leeman, Pam McIntyre, Kandis Smith, and Bruce Speck

COTA-AC Representative: Rita Gulstad

MDHE Staff: Angela Hake, Hillary Fuhrman (via phone), Angelette Prichett, and B.J. White

Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Consent Item

I. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Steve Kurtz and seconded by Dr. Mike Grelle to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

II. 2009 Transfer Conference

Dr. Rita Gulstad stated that COTA-AC was in the process of collecting the proposals for the transfer conference breakout sessions. The top proposals will be presented to COTA for review. Dr. Jorgenson asked if any proposals have been submitted. Mr. B.J. White stated that some in fact have been turned in and that more were expected in the coming weeks.

Dr. Jeanie Crain stated that the Missouri Assessment Consortium (MAC) would be holding a meeting on January 29th, 2008, the afternoon prior to the Transfer Conference. Dr. Grelle has checked into the cost of a board room and will email the specifics to the MAC members. COTA agreed that the meeting should take place in the same location as the conference itself. Dr. Grelle stated that the meeting would take the format of an assessment showcase and that he expected about 30-40 attendees.

Dr. Jeanie Crain stated that she saw a need for a Feedback Forum on the COTA web page as a way for issues to be discussed online. Dr. Jorgenson agreed stating that questions about current policy could be addressed as well as questions regarding issues that policy does not cover. Mr. B.J. White stated that there is currently a Feedback Forum on the COTA-AC website that can be used for COTA as well. Dr. Jorgenson asked that Mr. White keep track of the questions and present them COTA at a future meeting. Ms. Hillary Fuhrman suggested that the Feedback Forum be publicized at the Transfer Conference.

Dr. Jorgenson stated that we should have all proposals in by the next COTA meeting on October 22nd, 2008. Dr. Gulstad stated that there would be a quick turn around on the proposals

III. Dual Credit Survey Report

Dr. Grelle commended Ms. Angelette Prichett for her work on the Dual Credit Report.

Dr. Jorgenson stated that the CAO's requested additional time to review the Dual Credit Report and that they will respond to COTA with suggestions.

Dr. Jorgenson expressed her concern that only 81% of colleges reported compliance with the Dual Credit Policy. Dr. Jorgenson questioned what could be done to draw attention to this fact. She also questioned if the policy is too hard to follow or if institutions had a lax attitude in regards to the policy. Dr. Crain stated that a turnover in CAO's may be the cause of any unintentional violations of the policy. Dr. Crain also stated that follow up is necessary to see what if anything has changed.

Dr. Arlen Dykstra voiced his concerns of those institutions who stated they are 100% compliant stating that self-reporting has its limitations. Dr. Grelle concurred.

Dr. Jorgenson stated that recruitment and replacement of qualified instructors is a problem area and asked if COTA felt that the required 18 hours in subject content was still important. COTA agreed that it was. Dr. Arlen Dykstra stated that previously institutions could approach COTA if they had a prospective teacher who should be an exception to the rule. Dr. Jorgenson stated that 90% compliance with faculty qualifications allowed for a few exceptions based on the amount of experience the prospective teacher had. Dr. Dykstra asked if instructors who were grandfathered in when the Dual Credit Policy was enacted were considered qualified. COTA agreed that was an issue worth looking into.

Dr. Grelle asked what would be done if schools are not in compliance. Dr. Jorgenson stated that the CBHE maybe the authority to make decisions about that matter. Ms. Prichett suggested that other coordinating board states be studied to see how they address this issue. Dr. Jorgenson agreed and suggested that the border states be compared.

Dr. Jorgenson asked COTA for next steps regarding Dual Credit. COTA decided to review CAO input before proceeding further.

Dr. Dykstra suggested that COTA be tutored on NACEP standards. Dr. Dykstra will be attending a NACEP meeting October 26th-28th, 2008. Dr. Jorgenson requested that Dr. Dykstra collect info and share it at a future COTA meeting. Dr. Dykstra agreed that it would be helpful since many items mirror COTA.

Dr. Crain asked if a board book item about the Dual Credit Report and recommendations would occur. Mr. B.J. White stated that the CBHE would be informed about the Dual Credit Report.

IV. Start of the Year Transfer Issues

Dr. Grelle stated that transfer students from one particular institution have an 80-90% failure rate for certain courses. Dr. Grelle asked if institutions could refuse credit from the institution in question. Dr. Jorgenson said that transfer credits can be refused and commented that most community college presidents would want to be informed if their transfer students were not performing successfully. She stated that it is not beneficial to the students or the institution to not inform the institution (s) in question.

Dr. Kandis Smith asked if an international student transfers is it assumed that the original school attended verified their residency status. Dr. Jorgenson stated that everyone should start verifying international student status; however students already enrolled could have slipped through the cracks even with good-faith efforts try to verify all students. Dr. Jorgenson stated it may affect open enrollment institutions the most. Dr. Grelle stated that he understood the intent and rationale of the rules but noted that they are not always workable. Dr. Jorgenson mentioned that Ms. Zora AuBuchon spoke about this issue at the September 11th, 2008 board meeting and recommended that the group read the board item on this topic.

Dr. Grelle stated that he would like to see a presentation at the COTA conference directed toward transfer students, general education requirements, and graduation requirements. Dr. Grelle feels that there needs to be a timely evaluation of transfer credits otherwise students may be taking extra courses they don't need. Dr. Grelle stated that a presentation would give institutions the opportunity to see how credit evaluations are handled at different institutions. He suggested an open-mic format to get practitioners together to discuss such issues. Dr. Jorgenson felt the open-mic session would be a great option so that the topics are not all pre-determined.

Other

Dr. Jeanie Crain questioned whether the January 28th, 2009 meeting a few days prior to the conference was needed. Dr. Jorgenson suggested that COTA meet at the conference and cancel the January 28th, 2009 meeting. COTA agreed and a new meeting date was set for January 29th at 3:00 p.m. in the Holiday Inn Select.

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 pm.

Next Meeting

The next COTA meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. via conference call.