

CASSC Research and Testing Committee

MINUTES

Meeting: Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Wolfson Campus, Room 5620

Present: Barbara Bonallo, Ian Cobham, Debra Mancebo for Eurie Davis, Sheri Goldstein, Mayte Insua-Auais, Caroline Izquierdo, Rulx Jean-Bart, David Kaiser, Bert Lorenzo, Juan Carlos Meza, Cathy Morris (Chair), Cecilia Puccini-Martinez, Silvio Rodriguez, Cynthia Schuemann, Deborah Smith, Jose Tavarez, John Vassiliou, Nancy Yi.

Not Present: Rene Garcia, Sean Madison, Ivo Rokovich,

Recorder: R. M. Zaragoza (not present)

I. Review of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of September 21, 2005 were approved as written.

II. New Members

A. Research & Testing Committee Members and Function

III. Reports

A. Testing Directors

Jose Tavares reported on the following:

- The A+dvancer software is scheduled to be piloted in the 2005-2 Spring Term. The assessment section of this software program could be used as a possible alternative to the PASS test. The A+dvancer includes a diagnostic report after completion and the PASS does not.
- The Campus Testing Departments are currently supporting the 2005-1 Student Feedback Administration and the 2005 Administrative Services Surveys. The 2006 Supervisors Feedback Program is on schedule for Spring Term 2005-2.

B. Applications Development

David Kaiser reported for **Harold Harper** who submitted the following report on projects that he is working on:

- Ready port 2005.1 for user testing, which will start in November for finance, a bit later for students.
- Working on SDB issues, new data elements, refinements, etc. Some changes have been completed and are in the testing phase.
- We did programming to capture data of bachelor degree students for reporting to the state in the "Admissions Data Base". This resulted in showing we have incomplete data in our system, and thus raises the need for a data entry screen that can be used for supplying this data. We will be working on this very soon.

CASSC Research and Testing Committee

MINUTES

Meeting: Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Wolfson Campus, Room 5620

- Worked on issues on placement, CLAST
- The most involved project was the one to allow students to register, without being stopped, if they had certain registration holds. The students were given until a certain date to get their hold resolved. this was known as "Due Date Holds" project.

David Kaiser reported on the following:

- Working on Grade distribution data display for QEP classes
- Working on Student Feedback Collection for Virtual College
- Working on Upgrading EIS hardware and systems software
- Completed work on Registered Students at Hialeah
- Completed work on Administrative Services Effectiveness Survey
- Completed work on CPT Demographic Questions
- Completed work on FETPIP Follow-up

C. IR Activities

Cathy Morris highlighted the following-

- Enrollment changes: Looking at what's changed; information requests for contact information for non-returning students; building interactive model
- Current Surveys: Administrative Services and IR Effectiveness
- Continuing on Science Research Agenda and will post preliminary data next week
- Making changes on Student Data Base for new Reporting requirements
- Completing Baccalaureate effectiveness display
- Data requests: grant support; curriculum requests (pre and co-requisites and success)

D. Enrollment Management

Sheri Goldstein reported for Rene Garcia as follows:

- Publicizing of a college-wide Open House – January 25, 2006
- College-wide efforts regarding retention of current students.

E. Area Report for R & T Representatives: Deans, College Prep, ESL, English, Math, Occupational/Vocational.

Mathematics – Ian Cobham reported that the Homestead Campus received a \$2.25 million Title V grant entitled "Viva el Exito! The Student Success Initiative (VESSI)" from the United States Department of Education. This grant will help improve retention and success at the Homestead Campus especially among Hispanic students in the developmental courses (reading, English, and mathematics). Anyone who wants to know more about the grant can contact Ian Cobham.

CASSC Research and Testing Committee

MINUTES

Meeting: Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Wolfson Campus, Room 5620

Ian Cobham also reported that the QEP Research Oversight Committee that he chairs has recommended the following: On the web-display of the grade distribution for faculty that "Retention Rates" be used instead of "Withdrawal Rates." It is a more positive statistic as well as it is more inline with other reports that the College receives and needs to submit to other organizations and institutions.

ESL - See EAP report under "Follow-up Items"

College-Level English – Silvio Rodriguez informed the Committee that ENC 2135 was changed to ENC 2300.

Occupational/Vocational – Deborah Smith reported that the Phlebotomy program length must be decreased from 240 contact hours to 165 contact hours mandated by the state of Florida.

IV. Follow-up Items

Placement Criteria Review Process

Math Discipline: Ian Cobham reported that the Math Discipline is not contemplating any changes this year with the Placement Document. There is one item on the table as far as the CPT is concerned. There is a proposal to drop the CLM score from 40 to 35. This item is on the agenda for the November 30, 2005 Discipline Committee Meeting.

English Discipline: Barbara Bonallo reported that the English Discipline has tested WritePlacer on 3 campuses and collected hard copies of the essays. Two faculty, one from Kendall and one from Wolfson, were assigned to coordinate a holistic scoring session of the essays, compare the results with WritePlacer results, and then report back to the discipline. The two faculty assigned this project will be meeting next week to prepare for the process. They will report back at a later date.

College Prep:

Nancy Yi reported on the responses she received regarding the placement criteria. The major concern was the lowest level of reading, REA 0001, especially the students scoring in the lowest range. Her colleagues agreed that special attention needs to be given to this group. The discipline has not had any meetings this semester so she did not have anything to report as far as new developments.

EAP:

Cynthia Schuemann reported that the ESL/FL Department Chairs and members of the faculty EAP discipline sub-committee recommend no changes for the 2006-2007 Placement Criteria Document section on EAP. They consider review of fall 2005 placements and course completion to be an important goal as this group of new students will be the first to have been placed under the adjusted ACT/ESL cut score guidelines. It was noted that the EAP discipline sub-committee is evaluating writing placement procedures this academic year in order to recommend more consistent practices among campuses. Further, a question was raised as to policy with respect to a small number of non-standard diploma students that have been

CASSC Research and Testing Committee

MINUTES

Meeting: Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Wolfson Campus, Room 5620

enrolled in EAP courses at some campuses. Rulx Jean Bart volunteered to follow-up on this.

Other Discussion: The Committee strongly suggested that a statement be added in the document that would support an instructor's decision to move a student from a higher level college preparatory course to a lower level course based on additional assessments in the classroom. Each of the discipline representatives will discuss this with their disciplines and report back to the Committee. A sample of the wording discussed included: "Based on in-class assessment, faculty may require students to adjust their course placement."

V. New Business

Status of Updating campus based resource list for Test Prep website

The Campus Testing Directors reported that their campus based information is up to date and will submit minor changes on an as needed basis. Silvio Rodriguez reminded the Committee that the Campus Testing Directors are the contact representatives for the campus based resources pages.

VI. Information Items(s)

Legislative Issues

Excess Credits- Cathy distributed an article prepared by IR on the potential impact of the proposed Excess Credits legislation and reviewed the information with committee members.

HB205 (F1 Visa students)- Cathy Morris distributed a summary of the proposed legislation and it's likely impact on MDC students. The impact would be minimal.

Grade 14 test- Cathy distributed the DOE flowchart describing the testing process, and also a position paper developed for the statewide Council of Presidents.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Research & Testing Committee is Wednesday, January 18, 2006, 1:30 p.m., Bonnie McCabe Hall, Room 5620, Wolfson Campus.

Distribution:

CASSC Research & Testing Committee
CASSC Chair
Campus President responsible for Testing
Associate Provost of Institutional Effectiveness
Associate Provost for Academics
Associate Provost for Student Support