

COMPASS STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

September 17, 2003
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
District Office – Helen S. Kaiser Room

I. Website Information Update

Carla Mathews, Kim Boose and Judy Yerkes are currently updating information on the web. The IIC web page does not list the placement test schedule or contact phone numbers past August 2003.

II. English Diagnostic Tests: Discussion of Students Who Place Low

Discussion regarding the score sheet ensued and it was suggested that the demographics portion be turned off and that this could be handled through campus orientation. In addition, contact phone numbers could be placed next to the 14 areas.

Doug Riddering indicated that the English Placement score sheet currently has ENG-1050 instead of ENG-1051 on it and needs to be updated.

Carla Mathews is checking to see if the COMPASS code could be changed, possibly through Sue Bourbeau. Two scores needed to be added together. Jim Davis said he would handle the research part.

Chuck Neumann presented a report through the U.S. Department of Education. According to the ACT Entering Student Descriptive Report for OCC, of the 8082 students who took the COMPASS/ESL math placement test in Fall 2002 and Winter 2003, 945 students scored below the federally recognized ability to benefit level. This means nearly 1 in 8 OCC students who took the COMPASS math placement test during the fall and winter semesters first year of mandatory placement at OCC were deemed to be below the ability to benefit based on their COMPASS/ESL test results. Students are not eligible for financial aid if they score below 25.

It was suggested that if students test this low, placement into MAT-1040 should be recommended. Discussion centered around the need to have a broader diagnostics in place.

Kim Boose stated that PASS does not do testing or any type of diagnostics. Students are usually referred to the Graham Health Center at Oakland University.

III. Implications of Using Assessment Tool

Chuck Neumann indicated that math placement went much smoother this fall as opposed to last year. Problems that were encountered included counselors not date stamping or putting comments in and exemption codes being entered in the wrong field.

He also reported that the math discipline believes students are being placed in classes below their capability level and is not really related to COMPASS. Further exploration regarding this matter is under discussion. In addition, there were very few formal appeals filed in the Math area.

It was suggested that the XLM report include what class a student took last.

Deborah Randolph said that English Placement went very smoothly this fall. She also reported that there was some difficulty finding teachers for ENG-1050 and ENG-1060 courses.

Mike Khirallah will be meeting with ACT on October 3, 2003. The discipline will be discussing and reviewing the final analysis presented by ACT and Institutional Research and will then make their recommendation following Discipline Day.

IV. Transferring COMPASS Test Scores from Other Institutions to OCC

Doug Riddering discussed the problem with scores coming from Delta and Baker College. It is not real clear on the level of domain it pertains to. Carla Mathews said OCC should not have to take scores from other schools if they are unclear and that the student could take the test here.

Doug also indicated that unofficial transcripts brought in from other schools off the Web do not have the student's name or school. Current practice is to physically watch the student pull their transcript off the Web a second time. This will be reviewed by the counseling discipline.

V. Other Business

Deborah Randolph reported there were not enough testing sessions offered during registration. This will be reviewed by the Director of Student Services at each campus. Carla Mathews said that due to staffing issues and budget cuts, she was only able to assign 1 temporary employee to each IIC during fall registration.

