

# COMPASS STEERING COMMITTEE NOTES

November 21, 2003  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
District Office - Helen S. Kaiser Room

## I. Combining 3 Scores with Correct Formula

No report (IT not available).

## II. Review of Orientation Project

Doug Riddering reported that the short 8 minute PowerPoint presentation at Auburn Hills is working. The only problem they have encountered is the fact that students have to sit at one computer to watch the presentation and then have to move to another computer for COMPASS.

Kathy Chiasson suggested the instructions for the COMPASS test be put on a CD as opposed to reading them.

John Mitchell will check to see if a CD is available on the COMPASS website.

## III. Practice of Testing Non-native Speakers on COMPASS

It was noted that the regular COMPASS test should not be given to non-native speakers. Issues regarding this should be discussed with the campus coordinator for alternative methods of assessment for the student. Mary Jo Schuster indicated that currently there is no policy in place that excludes non-native speakers from taking both the MTELP and COMPASS tests. She also suggested that an assessment coordinator be created in the organization.. Carla Mathews indicated this position would not be approved due to budget restraints. In addition, counseling strongly recommends that there needs to be a consistent appeal process in place. Currently, there is no appeal process for ESL students. Carla asked Mike Khirallah to come up with a plan for consistency across the college.

Doug Riddering indicated that the MTELP and COMPASS tests do not place American Sign Language students well. This matter needs further review.

Katherine Lichtenberg reported that some colleges and universities have approached assessment in two ways with regards to non-native speakers:

- They have waved assessment based on how many years a student has lived in the US. For example, 7 years.

- If a student has been schooled in the US, has a high school diploma with 4 years of English, they should be treated as any other high school student and be allowed to take the COMPASS test for placement.

#### IV. Revisit ESL Report

Mike Khirallah reported that George Keith and the Deans did not recommend the pilot program for ESL E-write and will not support additional release time for this pilot.

#### V. Deregistration of Math Students

Maureen Doppke responded to Chuck Neumann's memo regarding deregistration of math students. It was rumored that deregistration of math students would not occur after the last day to withdraw from a course for the Fall semester. Instead, the process would only occur after grades were posted for the term. Maureen reported that this was not true and the first deregistration would take place on November 24 and the second on December 17.

#### IV. Other Business

It was reported that PASS does not have the instruments for students who test at a 0 level. A developmental component is not available.

Mike Khirallah indicated that due to the closing of many adult education centers and programs, we are unable to serve the adult ESL population effectively.

John Mitchell stated that the set combined score of 37 needs to be re-visited and that the writing skills test is lower than the reading test. Also, the administrative dismissal policy from class due to behavior problems needs to be reviewed, especially with regards to cognitively impaired students.

Mike Khirallah stated that there is no mandatory placement policy at OCC, but there is a mandatory testing policy. He suggested developing and reviewing the current testing policies for Math, English, and ESL.

Next meeting: February 27, 2004  
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
District Office – Board Room