Common Assessment/Multiple Measures Steering Committee Notes

November 9, 2016

Attendees: Mallory Newell, Rob Mieso, Stephen Fletcher, Jerry Rosenberg, Thomas Ray, Patty Carabus, Clara Lam, Anne Argyriou, Jim Mailhot, Jim Nguyen

Attendees reviewed the minutes from the last meeting: <http://www.deanza.edu/gov/academicsenate/common_assessment_multiple_measures/DAC_CAI_MM_Committee_101316_Notes.docx>.

Each department provided an update on their competency mapping process. The math department is done; they sent it out to the department for feedback and will be voting on its approval next week. The ESL department is complete and are now meeting with Foothill’s ESL department to discuss together. They are taking a long-term view and believe that collaboration will be beneficial for their students at both campuses. The Reading department is 80% done. They had a question on how the Reading competencies would be mapped within the CAI test to place students into Reading as opposed to just EWRT courses, there was no consensus on this at the meeting. The EWRT chair provided information on their process via email and stated they will complete their process by early winter term. They have also been working with Foothill to map EWRT1A and ENGL 1A.

The committee then reviewed the retest policy at De Anza and noted that the retest policies at Foothill and De Anza will be discussed at the district meeting the following day. At De Anza, currently students may not retake a test in English or Reading until they have passed the EWRT or Reading course which placed. They can then retest. For ESL, there is no retest allowed. For Math, students can take a module and then retest. Stephen discussed the math module where students can take a module and upon completion, retest. He stated that about 5% of students take the module which takes about 20 or more hours to complete. For Chemistry and Biology, students can retest in 6 months if they do not enroll in the course which placed. Any student who enrolls in the course and does not pass, may not retest. Foothill allows students to retest once within 6 months. The departments discussed that they all have an appeal process in place for students who feel they were not placed correctly.

There was concern from the group that students would continue to take the test to get a better score rather than take the course. Stephen also discussed that the EWRT and math departments tried a pilot which allowed students to retest. 122 students were given the opportunity to retest as part of the study. Sixteen students retested. Ten students placed higher. Five students did not change their placement. One student placed lower. Based on the small number of students who took advantage of the ability to retest, it was discussed that there will likely not be a huge influx of students wanting to retest.

The group then discussed allowing students the ability to retest once their results are ready and then retest again 1 year later. The department chairs will take this information back to their departments for discussion and bring feedback to the next meeting of this committee. The same information will also be shared with the district assessment committee in an effort to come to agreement on a districtwide retest policy. It also needs to be further discussed if the student can retest if they have already enrolled in the course/subject which they placed and received either a passing or non passing grade.

The next meeting will be on: [to be determined based on the next district assessment taskforce meeting]

Topics for future meetings:

1. An ask for departments to work together to develop ideas to pilot in the spring so that we have multiple measures in place for all departments by fall 2017
2. Human scoring the essay and portability
3. Using self-reported high school transcripts for multiple measures
4. Multiple measures for international students – Non Cognitive Variables
5. Using the EAP for assessment – what level of proficiency?
6. Continuing to assess disproportionate impact on a regular basis