

November 7, 2008

To: Linda Michalowski
Vice Chancellor of Student Services
California Community Colleges

Mark Wade Lieu, President
Academic Senate
California Community Colleges

From: Gary W. Reichard
Executive Vice Chancellor
and Chief Academic Officer

John Tarjan, Chair
Academic Senate
California State University

Subject: The Lower Division Transfer Patterns (LDTP) Project: California Community College Questions Regarding Continued Commitment to Course-to-Course Articulation

We write to respond to a concern communicated to us by representatives of the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges. Specifically, we are told that some in the Community College articulation community believe that the CSU is advocating and encouraging individual campuses to delete articulation agreements with nearby community colleges, and replace them with the LDTP articulation agreements.

We wish to assure you, and any who harbor this concern, that it is not the intention (hidden or explicit) of the Academic Senate, CSU, nor is it the intention of administrative leaders in the CSU system, to encourage CSU campuses to “abandon” course-to-course articulation in favor of system-wide articulation through the TCSU descriptor. Rather, the CSU remains committed to the provisions of the legislation that established LDTP, that LDTP be an *additional* transfer pathway, not the only pathway to transfer.

It is important to point out in this context that *at the individual department level* the methods of, and criteria for, establishing and refreshing articulation for specific courses are, and remain, a discipline faculty prerogative. As you well understand from your own work, discipline-specific decisions regarding articulation rest with the faculty in the discipline at each individual campus

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of the CSU. A specific case in point is the often- referenced decision by the Accounting faculty at San Diego State University. At SDSU, faculty in the Accounting discipline reviewed their curriculum and made changes in their own curriculum that were consistent with the systemwide discipline LDTP agreement for course descriptors for two basic accounting courses: *Financial Accounting Fundamentals* and *Managerial Accounting*. The SDSU Accounting faculty collectively determined that these refreshed descriptors provided the best foundation for students planning to enter SDSU as Accounting majors. Prior to making this decision, the SDSU Accounting faculty met with the Accounting faculty of the local community colleges. It was reported that: “Those community college faculty in attendance were more than willing to make the necessary changes to their courses (and outlines) and were in agreement with the overall improvement in the academic integrity of the discipline and conformity for the students transferring via the LDTP or any other method of transfer to SDSU.”

The CSU feels strongly that the LDTP project is a valuable addition to the multiple pathways open to community college students for transfer. The importance of ensuring strong and effective transfer pathways between the CCC and CSU cannot be over-stressed.

We hope that this communication provides assurance to community college personnel who have expressed concerns regarding loss of campus-to-campus articulations. We encourage all community colleges to take another look at the benefits to students of submitting courses as a part of LDTP.

Finally, we appreciate that the Community College Senate leadership brought this concern to our attention. The CSU will continue its efforts to listen carefully and respond in a timely fashion to any similar concerns in a collegial spirit that serves California well.

cc: Dr. Charles B. Reed, Chancellor
Dr. Keith O. Boyum, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Dr. Barbara Swerkes, Chair, LDTP Advisory Committee

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