

MATH ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING
11:00-12:30 ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2011
LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM, TUNXIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Members Present: Larisa Alikhanova (TRCC), Karen Collin (NWCC), Elaine Dinto (NVCC), Paul Edelen (MCC), Andre Freeman (CCC), Pam Frost (MXCC), Miguel Garcia (GWCC), Elizabeth Glatt (NCC), Chris Hamelin (MCC), Mark Leach (HCC), Sal Maimone (NWCC)

- Pam called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.
- Minutes from the October Math Issues meeting were approved.

Old Business: The topics of self-paced courses and sunset clauses were mentioned but no discussion emerged.

Course Redesign Initiatives:

- Elizabeth presented an ongoing initiative at NCC in which nearly all sections of MAT 136 and MAT 172 use My Math Lab (MML) as a course supplement. Mathematics faculty received training in the use of MML and section leaders with master MML courses are assigned to each course. Faculty members employ HW and quiz features in different ways based on their expertise and preference. The initiative has generally received positive student feedback. A source of negative feedback is the additional cost of \$80 incurred by students. MAT 136 uses a Martin-Gay textbook and MAT 172 uses a Beecher textbook.

Other Items:

- Sal informed the committee that he has been selected by Pearson to work as a My Math Lab Faculty Advisor. Sal will facilitate faculty training sessions at CCC campuses, assist faculty via email, phone, and on-site visits, and make MML presentations to groups of faculty.
- Sal & Karen reported on a new custom textbook which they are developing for MAT 075, MAT 095, and MAT 137. This textbook will consist of three modules: Module 1 for MAT 075, Module 2 for MAT 095, and Module 3 for MAT 137. Each module will be bound separately. The bundled modules will have a single ISBN, and the bundle will come with a MML access code which will work for three semesters. MAT 137 students will be able to just purchase Module 3 and the

access code. The custom text will contain material from Bittinger's textbooks which employ a graphing calculator and function-based approach. The NWCC bookstore has agreed to buy back used modules. The premier goal of using this custom text is to reduce textbook costs for students. Eventually this text may be used in self-paced courses.

- Elaine discussed concerns about the impact of MML on student learning. Her experience found that MML supports skill development, remediation, and student learning of developmental mathematics topics, but fails to support conceptual understanding and mathematical reasoning among students in college algebra.
- Sal presented a MML student access code policy which details when students can use an access code for a second time.

Assessment of Student Performance in Mathematics:

- Members discussed the set of research questions on student performance in mathematics which Math Issues will send to the CCC System Office. The discussion clarified that, with approval of our request by the System Office, the research questions will be sent to the CCC System office so the system IR can perform a single analysis on all 12 community colleges. There was an extensive discussion about the language and purpose of several of the proposed research questions. Additional discussion is needed to clarify the intent of each research question.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by *Andre Freeman*