

MINUTES
State Board of Community Colleges
PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
Thursday, May 14, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sam Powell, Chair*
Bobby Irwin, vice chair*
William Holder*

Mary Ann Rice*
David Willis*
Ann Whitford*

Frank Johnson*

*attended via phone

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Hari Nath
Jesse Watts

SYSTEM OFFICE STAFF AND OTHERS:

Kimberly Gold
Alexandra Doles
Wesley Beddard
Hilmi Lahoud
Frank Scuiletti
Bryan Jenkins
Sondra Jarvis
Lisa Eads

Matt Meyer
Michelle Lair
Kenny Weatherington
Linda Suggs
Mary Olvera
Jonathan Harris
Lori Byrd
Margaret Robertson

David Heatherly
Andrea Poole
Mebane Rash
Anne Bacon
Gilda Rubio-Festa

WELCOME AND ETHICS STATEMENT: Dr. Powell called the meeting to order at 9:34am in a virtual meeting. Roll was taken and there was a quorum. Dr. Powell read the Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Statement and asked if there were any known conflicts. None were noted.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Dr. Powell requested a motion to approve the May 14, 2020 agenda. Mr. Holder made a motion to approve the agenda and Ms. Rice seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved by the committee.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Dr. Powell requested a motion to approve the April 17, 2020 minutes. Mr. Holder made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Irwin seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved by the committee.

FOR ACTION:

Proposal for an Amendment to the High School to Community College Articulation Agreement COVID-19 Waiver (Attachment PROG 01)

Dr. Gold reviewed the item.

Ms. Whitford asked if this item is a temporary waiver to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This item is a temporary waiver and only applies to Spring 2020.

On a motion made by Mr. Irwin, seconded by Mr. Holder, this item was approved for the “For Action” agenda at their meeting on May 15, 2020. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Pathways to Employment (PTE) Course Request (Attachment PROG 02)

Dr. Gold reviewed the item.

Mr. Holder asked if the System tracks student success in these courses and whether students have demonstrated higher rates of success in these courses compared to those who have not. These courses are new to the system and the colleges do not track student success in work-based learning compared to other courses, but success rates are tracked within the work-based learning courses. Success rates between the programs could potentially be tracked in the future.

Ms. Whitford asked if these classes are a part of the apprenticeship programs. These programs can be taken for credits and degrees and students can prepare for degree programs as these are aligned with apprenticeship programs.

Mr. Johnson asked if this item addresses quality programs as it does not seem to be addressed within the item itself. These particular courses are set up to get students ready for work experience. Quality programs and being aware of quality programs can show up in a class or as a component of a class, but this aspect can be something that is looked at closer. Mr. Johnson followed up stressing the importance of quality systems/programs and employee impact to integrate new employees into these systems. He reiterated that the community colleges need equal input from the educators as well as industry to ensure that students are prepared and competitive in the workforce and creating programs without this will lead to mediocre programs and employees. Mr. Holder asked that this discussion be revisited in the future to discuss what a quality program looks like and how it can be applied in a variety of industries.

On a motion made by Mr. Holder, seconded by Mr. Irwin, this item was approved for the “For Action” agenda at their meeting on May 15, 2020. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Amendment of 1D SBCCC 200.95 – Education Services for Minors (Attachment PROG 03)

Dr. Gold reviewed the item.

The committee had no questions or concerns.

On a motion made by Mr. Holder, seconded by Ms. Rice, this item was approved for the “For Action” agenda at their meeting on May 15, 2020. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Curriculum Program Application – Fast Track for Action (Attachment PROG 04) [CA]

- Asheville-Buncombe Community College
 - Agribusiness Technology (A15100)
- Fayetteville Technical Community College
 - Medical Laboratory Technology (A45420)
- Johnston Community College
 - Mechanical Engineering Technology (A40320)
- Robeson Community College

- Hospitality Management (A25110)
- Surgical Technology (A45740)
- Wilkes Community College
 - Agriculture Systems Technology (A60140)
 - Construction Equipment Systems Technology (A60450)

Dr. Gold reviewed the item.

Ms. Whitford mentioned the issue of impact statements in relation to clinical spaces and the system’s need to address this in the future to reduce the competition between the colleges when securing these spaces.

On a motion made by Mr. Holder, seconded by Mr. Irwin, this item was approved for the “For Action” agenda at their meeting on May 15, 2020. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Courses of Instruction - Captive/Co-opted Groups (Attachment PROG 05) [CA]

- Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College – Craggy Correctional Center
 - Fork Lift Operator (MNT-3103)
 - (Fork Life Safety and Operation)
 - Pet Care: Retail
 - (Pet Care Technician)

Dr. Gold reviewed the item.

The committee had no questions or concerns.

On a motion made by Mr. Holder, seconded by Ms. Rice, this item was approved for the “For Action” agenda at their meeting on May 15, 2020. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Combined Course Library – Continuing Education (Attachment PROG 06) [CA]

- New Course Approvals, Modifications, and Tier Designations
 - New Course Approval – NC Community College System Office
 - ABE Level 4 English (BSP-3400)
 - ABE Level 4 Math (BSP-3450)
 - ESL Level 5 (BSP-5500)
 - ESL Level 6 (BSP-5600)
 - NFA Leadership Growth (FIP-3517)
 - NFA Leadership Perspectives (FIP-3518)
 - NFA Leadership Frameworks (FIP-3519)
 - NFA Leadership Series (FIP-3520)
 - New Course Approval – Catawba Valley Community College
 - Dental Assisting (DEN-3300)
 - New Course Approval – Fayetteville Technical Community College
 - Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Maintenance (UAV-3200)
 - New Course Approval – Vance-Granville Technical Community College

- Court Reporting (LEX-3200)

Dr. Gold reviewed the item.

The committee had no questions or concerns.

On a motion made by Mr. Holder, seconded by Mr. Irwin, this item was approved for the “For Action” agenda at their meeting on May 15, 2020. The motion was approved by voice vote.

FOR INFORMATION

Programs Committee Agenda Items

Curriculum Program Applications as Approved by the System President (Attachment PROG 07)

- Carteret Community College
 - Esthetics Instructor (C55270)
- Durham Technical Community College
 - Public Safety Administration (A55480)
- Robeson Community College
 - Mechatronics Engineering Technology (A40350)

Dr. Gold reviewed the item.

The committee had no questions or concerns.

Curriculum Standard Revision as Approved by the System President (Attachment PROG 08)

- Boat Manufacturing and Service (Diploma) (D60330)

Dr. Gold reviewed the item.

The committee had no questions or concerns.

Curriculum Program Terminations as Approved by the System President (Attachment PROG 09)

- Cape Fear Community College
 - Truck Driver Training (Certificate) (C60300)
- Isothermal Community College
 - Collision Repair and Refinishing Technology (A60130)
 - Entrepreneurship (A25490)
- South Piedmont Community College
 - Musculoskeletal Sonography (Certificate) (C45850)

Dr. Gold reviewed the item.

The committee had no questions or concerns.

SBCC Code Report – May 2020 (Attachment SBCCC 01)

Dr. Gold reviewed the item.

The committee had no questions or concerns.

Finance Committee Information Items

Service Agreement for Community College Grant Program (Attachment FC 03) [CA]

Dr. Gold reviewed the item.

The committee had no questions or concerns.

Allocation for the North Carolina Motorcycle Safety Education Program (NCMSEP) (Attachment FC 08) [CA]

Dr. Gold reviewed the item.

The committee had no questions or concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

The Programs Committee was requested to have a discussion on Pass/Fail versus a traditional grading system.

Ms. Whitford asked if this in relation to online classes and the shift from seated to online classes. This is in response to the public schools and universities that have modified their grading.

For example, there are universities that are using Pass/Fail for the Spring 2020 semester and, in most cases, are allowing the option. Numerous discussions were had with the President's COVID committee regarding this is something the System would like to put in place. Traditionally, grading has been left to the faculty and institution. The COVID Committee has determined to leave the option so that colleges can address local needs. Some colleges in the System have moved to this option but the majority have decided to award traditional grades with accommodations for students such as using Incomplete grades for students who could not complete the course in the Spring and extending the withdraw period. A memo was issued in partnership with the UNC System to address transfers under the Articulation Agreement and guidance on denoting how colleges and universities can denote Pass/Fail or alternate grading to the "C or higher" transfer acceptance. The guidance states that each institution is responsible for their grading policies and their acceptance of transfer credit.

There is also guidance on admissions and how Pass/Fail can impact GPA. UNC has made modifications to the minimum admissions requirements to allow for test scores or a GPA. For community college students, the more pressing issue is the transfer issue as students may not immediately transfer. The President's COVID Committee did discuss how these grades could be considered in the future.

Mr. Johnson mentioned a letter that had been sent to the State Board about a transfer issue that has since been addressed. He stated that a consistent, general plan is needed for the System to show that it is using a specific grading system so that anyone in the state community colleges that completes a course can show this to the universities and independent colleges. In regard to transferring credits, it is clear that these grades occurred during a crisis. By having a consistent method, there will be less issues in the future when students transfer as the receiving university or independent college knows what to expect when reviewing those transcripts rather than having each community college varying their grading.

Ms. Whitford expressed her support of Mr. Johnson's statements and reiterated that there should be a general understanding of how this crisis will be handled across the board for both community colleges and universities to minimize future issues for students. She stressed simplifying the process so that students are not treated differently from one institution to another. She clarified that the colleges can determine whether to use a Pass/Fail or traditional grading system based on local needs, but there needs to be a general consensus on policy for Pass/Fail across the system and how they are accepted by the university system rather than a university-by-university policy on how they are accepted and transferred.

Dr. Gold noted that memo issued jointly by the NCCCS and the UNC System providing guidance on this issue was distributed recommending that Pass grades were noted as a C or higher and that they are clearly described on transcripts, as recommended by the UNC System.

Other members of the committee expressed their support for consistency in the Pass/Fail grading and transferring.

The committee asked if students can opt in or opt out of using Pass/Fail grades on their transcripts. The colleges that are utilizing this grading system are allowing students the option and it is important that the institution talk with students about the impact of the Pass/Fail option can have on their future plans. This is where advising and career counseling comes into play.

Mr. Willis asked how this aligns with the public school system and reaffirmed the need for consistency across all of these systems to allow for ease of transfer.

Dr. Powell suggested a statement on the NCCCS website on the System's response to the COVID-19 crisis and that provides guidance on what a Pass/Fail grading system can look like to go along with guidance already provided on incomplete grades if they chose to implement such a system.

Mr. Johnson followed up that, in the future, the System could consider providing a policy on addressing this issue as there are concerns that the colleges and the universities could have a variety of methods and success in helping students. By issuing something a little more than guidelines that is in line with what the State Board would like to do in conjunction with the President's COVID Committee's opinion would be in the best interest of the student. He stated that solutions for this should occur at the level closest to the situation with the institutions, staff, and faculty should hold these conversations with consideration for the State Board's position or suggestions in mind to allow a system-wide response.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 am on a motion by Mr. Irwin, seconded by Mr. Holder, and approved via voice vote.

Recording Secretary
Alexandra Doles