

## August Matriculation Committee Updates (Not a formal Meeting)

Welcome Back! Our first Matriculation Committee meeting is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-4:30pm. However, I have a number of updates that I would like to share in an effort to keep everyone abreast of Summer Matriculation updates.

- This summer, James Smith, Marco, myself as well as English/Reading/ESL faculty met to discuss whether English cut scores should be increased. After evaluation of the data presented, it was agreed that the cut scores for English 914 would be increased while the cut scores for English 015 and English 101 will remain the same. I would like to formally thank those faculty members who took time out of their summer to attend this meeting in an effort to move along this process expeditiously.
- One of the major tasks set before the Matriculation Committee this year is to revise the Matriculation Plan. In an effort to do this efficiently, we will break into teams whereby each will be assigned a different part of the plan to write. This will be further explained at the first Matriculation Meeting and I hope that we will be divided into teams by that point.
- Over the summer, it has been reconfirmed that we are in dire need of some very concrete and explicit “Assessment Policies.” Arlene Delgado as well as other faculty have reiterated our need to look at the following in hope of obtaining appropriate approvals for the 2014-2015 catalog. It is recommended that the Matriculation Committee considers the following:
  - (1) Limiting the number of times a student is permitted to take the SBVC Assessment. Currently, there are no regulations regarding this. A student can take the assessment once per year with no limitations or restrictions.
  - (2) Restricting a student’s ability to “assess out of” a course. For example, a student attempts English 914 3 times and earns sub-satisfactory grades and/or withdraws. As opposed to considering their ability to take the course at another college, it is frequent that a student attempts to re-take the assessment in an effort to assess into a higher level English course. Arlene shared that many students actually share this with her. However, also indicated that it would be difficult to track whether a student who takes the assessment is actually in this situation. I personally agree that this is an issue of concern; but unless we have an efficacious plan of action regarding how each and every student will be audited to determine whether they have attempted a class 3 times, I am uncertain as how the implementation of a policy of this sort will be carried out. Regardless, this certainly needs to be a discussion topic for the large committee.
  - (3) Restricting the number of times and frequency of validating assessment scores from another California Community College. As of now, a student could take assessments at a myriad of community

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colleges devoid of any specific length of time passing and get their scores validated by the counseling department. As a result, students tend to “assessment shop” and then either bring the counseling department the best score or each score as frequently as they want. Because no such policy exists that limit the number or frequency of “outside assessments,” counselors have no choice but to grant the prerequisite clearance.

Due to the fact that these have been brought up at various meetings, I find it critical that this fall we definitely need to make some determinations of how we would like to proceed with these recommendations.

- Lastly, I would like to report that next Wednesday, I am scheduled to present our “Matriculation Exemption” form modification to Academic Senate. I am simply going to explain to the large group, as I did to the Executive Body, that we are in no way changing Matriculation policy. Instead, we are simply adding a criterion to a form that will increase the logical utility of the form. I will report the outcome immediately upon my presentation of the facts. If it is approved, Marco will forward our request to College Council in an effort to uphold “good practice” and I will then do whatever needs to be done to re-print the forms immediately following.

I look forward to seeing everyone September 19<sup>th</sup> and please do not hesitate forwarding any questions or concerns you may have in the interim.