Hello Bob,

Thank you for taking time to speak with me today about course substitutions for major requirements for AD-T’s.

As we agreed, I am emailing you with specific questions that I am grateful you, or someone else within the CCCCCO, are willing to address:

1) Do you agree with the following statement: “Associate Degrees for Transfer (AD-T’s) are local degrees in regards to Community Colleges.”

The sentence is not structured to allow a yes/no answer. These are community college associate degrees that must meet the requirements of Title 5 section 55063. However, per EDC 66746, if it is an associate degree intended for transfer to the CSU, it must also meet additional transfer-related requirements. The degrees serve two purposes, the scope should never be narrowed to just one purpose to fit a desired outcome at the time.

2) Do you agree with the following statements: “There is no repercussion for transfer students for substitutions for major requirement courses, regarding AD-T’s, approved by a Community College regardless of what was substituted,” and “CSU’s do not care about what Community Colleges do in regards to course substitutions for major requirements regarding AD’Ts.”

Disagree. Intersegmental policy is in place to ensure the opposite occurs and program curricula maintains a level of rigor both segments are satisfied with. In the early stages (2010-11) there were quite a few meeting discussions via the SB 1440 IOC and ICW groups discussing CSU concerns regarding inappropriate substitutions and how best to establish program policy to ensure substitutions are appropriate to the program, but continue to allow for local discretion. The result was the guidelines publication, and substitution best practices for ADT has been a session at just about every CCC Senate Plenary since then. In 2011, the CCC Senate passed a resolution “Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage local senates to review their course substitution processes to ensure that those processes are appropriately rigorous; and Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage local senates to take measures to ensure that any
substitutions made for courses within TMC-aligned degrees are appropriate. “

The CSU Senate passed a resolution as well around the same time, resolved “That the ASCSU strongly support intersegmental collaboration whose necessity is highlighted by the fact that the curricular implications of the implementation of SB1440 may have unintended consequences; and be it further”

3) Would a student ever be required to take classes outside of the 60 units required at the CSU if a substitution occurred that did not comply with the requirements of the Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) for an AD-T?

Technically no, but it has occurred, although if a student lawyered up the argument can be made that the degree award by itself guarantees admission into the CSU system to a similar program. Frequent occurrence would likely result of a particular CSU removing a similar designation for an ADT pathway.

4) Does the CSU’s system believe it is okay to pass-along courses from our own campus regarding major requirements for AD-T’s? Specifically courses that have been denied approval for C-ID when approval is required on the TMC? Courses that cannot be approved for, do not match, the C-ID descriptor (example: Calculus 1 cannot be approved for the Business Calculus C-ID course descriptor)? What about courses that cannot be a part of an Articulation Agreement by Major (AAM) as required by the TMC (example: Intercollege Athletics courses for Physical Activity courses in regards to AAM)?

It would be difficult in my opinion to find anyone representing the CSU Senate to support any of the above scenarios, especially when there is a record that the course itself does not meet the particular requirement.

5) Is there any concern within the CSU system regarding the integrity of the AD-T program in general and course substitutions specifically?

Yes, just take a look at the articulation-related audit CSUB is performing at this time. The CCCCCO has also recently expressed concern and initiated their own audit, via memorandum AA19-33.

6) Could a Community College campus ever be contacted by the CSU Chancellor’s Office raising concerns about a Community College that are not following the TMC’s, and could this have an impact on the Community College?

Yes. This would likely be a contact between articulation officers, and if not resolved the likely result would be the CSU campus removing similar designations for any pathways of concern.

7) Would the California Community College Chancellor’s Office be concerned with pass-along courses from our own campus, or another campus, that do not conform with the TMC for major requirements?

Yes. Everyone should be concerned, it circumvents the intent of the program, as well as puts the CSU EO at risk that provides the CCCs authority to passalong. If a systemic problem we would defer to the statewide ASCCC to mitigate.

8) Would the ASCCC be concerned with pass-along courses from our own campus, or another campus, that do not conform with TMC for major requires.

I’m not the ASCCC, so I can only assume they would support practices within the substitutions guidelines they have published, and discourage practices otherwise.

If there is anything else you would like to say, I am more than happy to hear from you.

I hope these are hypothetical questions and not actual practices in play.
Thank you and take care,

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