**ACADEMIC SENATE FOR CALIFONIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

**FALL 2017 PLENARY SESSION**

**Report by Marilyn Fry**

**First General Session: Panel Presentation on Guided Pathways: What’s Next**

The Guided Pathways Program is a national movement and now a California State movement. Dr. Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor of California Community Colleges, is very much in favor of all 114 California community colleges adopting the Guided Pathways movement. It is a multi-year plan; the time line is aggressive. State funding is based on an 18-month plan; funding is based on implementation, not on exploration. Colleges need to start planning now even though the template is not ready.

A question was asked about “meta majors” (also called “Areas of Emphasis” or “Focus Areas”): degrees that students can earn in more general groupings of subjects. The answer was that these could be considered in the future; they are not needed now.

*Coastline has six Areas of Emphasis:*

***American Studies:*** *history, political science, psychology, sociology, communication studies, English, humanities, philosophy, art, music*

***Arts & Humanities:*** *art, music, theater, humanities, English, philosophy, international languages*

***Communications:*** *communication studies, mass communications, English, philosophy, business computing—web design, American sign language,*

***Physical Education and Health:*** *physical education, health, food and nutrition*

***Science and Math:*** *mathematics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, physics, geology, marine science, ecology, anthropology*

***Social and Behavioral Sciences:*** *history, psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, geography, economics, mass communications*

Student voices are important. We need to ask students what they want. The core problem is the underserved population. Diverse faculty are needed to reach out to diverse students.

**Breakout Session: Supporting Part-Time Faculty**

This last summer, ASCCC funded a Part-Time Leadership Institute at the Four Seasons Hotel in Anaheim with free admission and free hotel rooms for two nights to 300 part-time faculty. ASCCC plans to offer this same opportunity each summer.

Two colleges provide manuals for their part-time faculty members: Folsom Lake College and Los Rios College.

**Breakout Session: A Fully Online Community College? An Update on the Work of the FLOW Workgroup**

Governor Jerry Brown called for the creation of a 115th community college that would be completely online that would serve students who need job skills who are not being served well in the traditional community colleges. He sent a letter to this effect on July 31 (dated May 11, 2017) and asked for a plan to be submitted to the California Community College Board of Governors by November 1. The Chancellor appointed the Flex Learning Options for Workers (FLOW) Workgroup with all the members appointed by the Chancellor with the exception of the three ASCCC members. In addition to members from various State groups, three members were “external experts”: Jay Box, President of Kentucky Community and Technical College System; Adrian Sannier, Senior Technology Fellow at Arizona State University; and Spencer Stewart, Chancellor of Western Governors University in Las Vegas.

FLOW held one meeting and one webinar. The workgroup was given three options of online colleges. One was presented by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), a non-profit organization. Another was presented by Sally Johnstone, former Vice President of Western Governors University, which uses “coaches” and “tutors” rather than teachers. The third was presented by Dennis Jones. FLOW was told that the new online college would “target adults with some college experience but no certification as well as working adults with vocational needs to enable them to earn certification that would lead to better workforce outcomes.” The emphasis should be on workers and their needs, not on degrees.

At the first meeting, four colleges presented their ideas. One of the presentations was made by Dr. Ross Miyashiro for Coastline. The four colleges were given 15 minutes each to give their presentations. Then the three external experts on the committee gave their presentations; each was given 45 minutes to present what was being done at his or her college and to explain why that plan was best. The ideas presented by the experts included the ideas that the proposed college should not have semesters or quarters but should be self-paced with open entry at any time. It should be a charter school with competency-based education, giving students credit for skills already learned through work or life. It should be subscription-based rather than fee-based and should be connected to industry to provide skills that industry needs and wants. The instruction should be multi-lingual. The school should consider suspending regulations that would prevent similar efforts at local colleges. Finally, the members of the group were asked to consider five options for the online college:

A new competency-based entity

A consortium based on geography

A consortium based on the target audience

A consortium based on content area

A new college that emerges from an existing entity

At the webinar meeting, which was held in October 2017, three options were presented with pros and cons for each. For two of the options, the cons greatly outnumbered the pros; the third option had 14 pros and only 3 cons.

Option 1 was an online college embedded in an existing college or state-supported entity.

Option 2 was a network of cooperating programs offered through existing colleges.

Option 3 was the creation of a new statewide district that could centralize services for students studying with a variety of online colleges.

The FLOW Workgroup was never asked to vote on any of the options, just to discuss them. Members were given a draft of the final report on November 19 and then participated in a conference call on November 20.

**The ASCCC** **Fall 2017 Plenary Session passed Resolution 17.12 unanimously: Endorse Consortium Approach to Expanding Online Educational Opportunities**

*Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Colleges, given the timeline provided by the governor, endorse the establishment of a cooperative or consortium of colleges or districts to develop a new online opportunity that would meet the stated goals of the governor and the presumed needs of the target population identified by the chancellor; and*

*Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Colleges urge the chancellor to request of the governor an extended deadline in order that a plan for meeting the governor’s goals be developed with greater consultation, deliberation, and effectiveness.*

**Breakout Session: OER and Z Degree**

OER stands for Open Educational Resources; ZTC stands for Zero Textbook Cost.

This session was led by Dolores Davison, ASCCC Secretary, and Michelle Pilati, OER Task Force Member, former ASCCC President.

The California Legislature is invested in providing college students with low-cost or no-cost textbooks and other educational materials with AB 798 College Textbook Affordability Act (2015); SB 1052, which created the California OER Council; and SB 1053, which created an OER Digital Library. The OER Council is composed of faculty from California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the California State Universities. The Council chose to look at the textbooks typically used in 47 high-impact courses, all with C-ID (Course Identification) numbers. The State provided funding for grants for colleges to commit to the possibility of creating or adapting zero-cost textbooks and other educational materials and to consider creating a whole degree or certificate program at no cost to students. So far, 18 planning grants have been awarded. Two AA degrees have been completed and approved for Z Degrees: one in sociology and one in a general area. Also, three Career Technical Education (CTE) certificates have been approved.

SB 1359 (2016) ordered California community colleges to indicate with a symbol in their class schedules those course sections that have Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC), beginning January 1, 2018. Zero means zero—literally no cost. The ASCCC Executive Committee is of the opinion that there should also be a special symbol for those classes that provide low-cost options for students. CSU indicates that textbook and educational materials for a class below $40 should be considered “low cost.” For example, a science teacher might be able to find an OER textbook to replace the previous $200 textbook, but the students still need to buy a $5 or $10 lab manual.

**The ASCCC Fall 2017 Plenary Session passed Resolution 13.01: Recognition of Course Sections with Low-Cost Course Material Options.**

*Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges support efforts to increase student access to high-quality open educational resources and reduce the cost of course materials and supplies for students in course sections for which open educational resources may not be available to accomplish zero cost for students; and*

*Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges encourage colleges to implement a mechanism for identifying course sections that employ low-cost course materials.*

**Breakout Session: What’s Happening with the Education Planning, Online Education, and Common Assessment Initiatives?**

Craig Rutan, Common Assessment Initiative Co-Chair and Area D Representative, said that the Chancellor’s Office has decided not to develop any placement tests. Faculty have been working for several years to create common assessment tests for English, ESL, and Mathematics. However, it would take too much time and money to validate these tests. There are problems with all assessment tests. More colleges are using multiple measures to place students in classes, particularly high school records.

Cheryl Aschenbach, Online Education Initiative (OEI) Co-Chair said that 111 of the 114 California community colleges are now using Canvas, the Learning Management System (LMS) chosen by OEI. Courses in the OEI must meet quality standards, following an OEI rubric. OEI also provides professional development. It integrates academic and support resources. It provides increased access and portability for students through the OEI Course Exchange. Coastline is one of the six colleges involved in the OEI pilot program, beginning fall 2017. There are now 24 colleges in the program.

Stephanie Dumont, Educational Planning Initiative Co-Chair, Golden West College Professor, talked about Guided Pathways tools available free to all California community colleges; these tools were designed by the system for the system. CCC MyPath is an accessible portal where students sign on to CCC Apply. It is a more personal experience for students. The Educational Planning Initiative makes Starfish, a degree planner, available to California community colleges. It is already integrated with Canvas. Its first live launch was this year with two colleges; Golden West College will be the third. For more information, see **CCCMyPath.org**.

**The Fall 2017 ASCCC Plenary Session passed Resolution 11.01: Support for Educational Planning Initiative’s Suite of Tools.**

*Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges endorse the Educational Planning Initiative’s suite of tools (CCC MyPath, Starfish, and other technology resources and supports) as a potential tool for colleges to use in order to design and implement institutional innovations related to guided pathways frameworks; and*

*Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges communicate our support for the Educational Planning Initiative’s suite of tools (CCC MyPath, Starfish, and other technology resources and supports) as a potential tool for colleges to use when discussing guided pathways frameworks to the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.*