August 20, 2013

Dear AAUP Faculty:

I hope that you have had a wonderful summer! I write to inform you of the status of Phase Two of the Transfer and Articulation Plan (TAP) implementation.

First, I am providing a brief background of actions completed in spring 2012, secondly an overview of articulation agreements and third, the current status of Phase Two on our campus.

I. Background

The motion to ratify the Transfer and Articulation Policy (TAP) framework, competencies and learning outcomes was passed by resolution in the University Senate and approved by Dr. James Schmotter (R-13-02-01) on February 13, 2013. This action completed Phase I. The Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Board of Regents for Higher Education approved the Transfer and Articulation Policy (TAP) on March 15, 2013. TAP was developed in response to House Bill 5030 (Public Act 12-31) “An Act Concerning the Development of a General Education Core of Courses to Allow for the Seamless Transfer Among Public Institutions of Higher Education.”

II. Overview of Articulation Agreements

There are two program articulation models: voluntary and state-mandated. The TAP is a state-mandated articulation agreement. Articulation in all of its many forms is intended to ensure that students are adequately prepared for further study, whether in core general education courses or in more advanced sequences, to demonstrate that, for credibility purposes, a student has attained the desired level of exposure to knowledge in a certain field; and to “create a clearly marked pathway from admission to graduation for all students by clarifying and streamlining the degree-program structures and transfer processes in our state colleges and universities to help students complete their post-secondary certifications and degrees as efficiently as possible.”

III. Phase Two: Step 1

Phase Two, step 1, of the implementation of the articulation agreement required complete alignment for all majors offered in the state universities (receiving institutions) by Academic Year 2012-2013. This timeline was not met. As of today, Western has successfully completed the first five major-to-major pathways designated for 2012-2013. Those majors-to-major pathways are: Biology, Business, Communication, Nursing and Psychology. Pathways simply align or match the courses students from the transferring institution must take to fulfill degree requirements at the receiving institution (Western).
This process is not subject to another level of curriculum review. No course revisions or curriculum changes occur. At Western, traditionally, upon receipt of information from Admissions which checks for course equivalencies per the articulation agreement, information is forwarded to the Registrar to verify and file in the student’s record. The Department Chair meets with the transfer student and appoints an academic advisor.

Congratulations on completion of Phase Two, Step 1! A draft of Pathways for 2013-2014 is provided below.

Pathways from 2012-13 completed:

1. Biology
2. Business/Management
3. Communication
4. Nursing
5. Psychology

Pathways for 2013-14:

1. Elementary Education
2. Accounting
3. Social Work
4. Physical Education
5. Exercise Science
6. English
7. Computer Science
8. History
9. Sociology
10. Criminology
11. Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies/General Studies
12. Mathematics
13. Marketing
14. Political Science
15. Art
16. Finance
17. Chemistry
18. Sport and Fitness Administration/Management
19. Industrial Technology/Technician
20. Construction Management
21. Theater/Drama

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1 High enrollment but difficulties because students declare majors in various subjects
2 Has a secondary education track; initial focus should be on non-education track
3 May be encompassed by Business/Management for several institutions
4 Available only at one CSU
We have much important work to complete together as we craft these major-to-major pathways to the end of making our programs throughout ConnSCU rigorous and accessible to students who choose to interact with more than one of our institutions to navigate to degree completion. Best wishes as you begin the new academic year.

Sincerely,

Jane Gates, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs