



Written Testimony for the Senate Higher Education Committee
Interim Hearing – June 24, 2010
Charge 2#: Community Colleges

Dr. MacGregor Stephenson

Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Research
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
P.O. Box 12788
Austin, TX 78711
(512) 427-6520
Macgregor.Stephenson@theccb.state.tx.us

Panel #3: Productivity and cost-effectiveness of the community college/university model for producing baccalaureate degrees

I. 2+2 Programs

- a. Agreement between community college and university to which community college students transfer.
- b. Explicitly outlines all courses required for baccalaureate degree at community college and university.
- c. Provides best sequence of courses so that students do not fail to complete prerequisite courses, delaying their graduation.
- d. Removes guesswork for students and makes academic advising straightforward.

II. Academic Advising

- a. Place university recruiters/advisors on community college campuses
 - i. Provides community college students with direct link to a transfer university.
 - ii. Creates a continuous line of communication between community college and university.
- b. Joint training sessions for community college and university academic advisors creates opportunity for dialogue and building a consistent message for students.

III. Joint Faculty Meetings Between Institutions

- a. Ensures that curriculum taught between institutions is consistent and prepares students for institutional degree program requirements.
- b. Provides stronger relationships which aid students interested in pursuing baccalaureate degrees.
- c. Provides faculty with the opportunity to share content and pedagogy ideas.

IV. Academic Course Guide Manual

- a. Contains all lower division academic courses which may be offered at public higher education institutions.
- b. Currently being revised to include learning objectives which provide for greater consistency and course content within and between institutions.
- c. Aids in ensuring that all students are prepared in a similar manner in each course.

V. Core Curriculum

- a. 42 hours of general education credits guaranteed to transfer to any public university.
- b. Core Curriculum Advisory Committee will be working to develop specific course recommendations by degree area to assist students in preparing for specific degree programs.

VI. Common Course Numbering System

- a. Developed to make the transfer and transcription of credit from one institution to another simpler and more efficient.
- b. Provides students and advisors with the means to evaluate which courses will prepare the student for the university to which they will transfer and the degree which they are seeking.

VII. Facility Sharing between Community Colleges and Universities

- a. Offering university courses on a community college campus provides a means to maximize the use of institutional space and reduce the need for additional buildings.
- b. Provides Texans in more locations with local or proximate access to four-year degree programs.

VIII. Reverse Transfer

- a. Apply Texas Committee has approved a revision to the Common Transfer Application to allow students to waive federal privacy rights allowing the university to which they transfer to transcript their university credit back to the community college so that the student may receive an Associate's Degree upon completion of sufficient credit.

IX. Applied Baccalaureate Programs

- a. Provide a clear path for students earning Applied Associate's Degrees to continue their education and earn a Baccalaureate Degree.