Math Curriculum Alignment Workshop Minutes

Valencia Community College, CJI

October 17, 2008

In Attendance: DeAnn Bohm, Linda Parrish, Kelli Smith (BCC); Allan Danuff, Michael Jamieson (CFCC); Judy Hayes, Steve Boast (LSCC); Tony Malaret (SCC); Lori Dunlop-Pyle (UCF); Lisa Cohen, Lynn Hearn, Maryke Lee (VCC); Allison Morrison-Shetlar, Craig Tidwell (UCF).

Members welcomed at 10:10am by Alison where everyone introduced themselves. Last meetings minutes were covered and the SharePoint site was discussed briefly.

Various faculty discussed concerns that they had about what students know or are supposed to know from course to course. Talked about the use of calculators in class and during exams – colleges had various responses to this issue.

Focus of meeting was discussed as clearly defining the student outcomes for MAC1105 and MAC1140. If time permitted more discussion of best practices would be done at the end. It was agreed that the faculty should agree on 5-6 learning outcomes per course.

Alison asked the group “what do you want your students to know from MAC1105?”

Responses: 1105 is all about functions, and the properties of functions; dependent and independent variables. Mastery of function notation; compositions and inverses. Need ability to graph, symmetry, shifting, reflections (w/o calculators). Exponentials and logs – manipulations of exponentials and logs (at least a basic knowledge). Should be really comfortable with linear equations and quadratic formulas. Complex numbers – mastery of arithmetic computations. Discussed putting optional topics at the end of the semester.

Group then went through 1105 and 1140 matrices and marked each section as either mandatory (M), overview (V), optional (O), review (R), and some were deleted from the matrix. (See matrix for both courses)

Alison then asked the faculty how they would implement what was just done with the editing of the course topics from 1105 and 1140. The ultimate goal is to have curriculum alignment between the schools. We should try to get to a place where students can seamlessly move from school to school.
Each school rep discussed how they would implement the agreed upon changes through their department and curriculum committees, etc.

UCF does need to update web site (catalog to show what is covered in Calc I and Calc II).

UCF is now offering MAC1140 (due to work done by curriculum group).

Some best practices were discussed:
1. Tests should be cumulative.
2. Giving quizzes as pretests.
3. Providing problem sets.
4. Some schools use online problems/quizzes to prepare for tests.
5. Giving quizzes at beginning of semester to assess knowledge.
6. Pre-test and post-test
7. Teach students math vocabulary
8. Use the same final exam for all teachers for a course
9. Grade mathematical notation – deduct points for incorrect notation
10. VCC uses 5 dept. questions embedded in exam for all sections of a course
11. “Your turn/my turn” – faculty works a problem, students work a problem (on board – sometime work in groups).
12. Index cards – use to quiz students (call on students).
13. Read ahead – read section before they come to class. Have a bonus question to reward students who read ahead.
14. Show students how all of the skills that they are learning connects together.

What to work on at the next meeting?
Work on learning outcomes – finalize for MAC1105 and 1140.
Come to table with syllabi for trigonometry.
Aligning assessments with outcomes – 1105 and 1140.
Start discussing trig alignment

Next meeting to be held on April 17, 2009 at Brevard Community College, Cocoa Campus.