

## **ASSIST Board of Directors - Issue Briefing Document**

### **Clarifying the Definition of the ASSIST Articulation Repository - April 24, 1998**

Helena Bennett, Coordinator of Transfer Services and Articulation at CSU Sacramento and CSU campus representative to the ASSIST Board of Directors, has provided the following information regarding the need for clarification of the definition of the ASSIST articulation repository. This item will be on the agenda for the May 18, 1998 meeting of the ASSIST Board of Directors.

#### **Background**

Since the ASSIST Board of Directors designated ASSIST as the "official repository of articulation for the State," there have been a number of discussions taking place in regional meetings and at conferences and workshops, about the meaning of the term "official."

#### **Issue**

Some community colleges are interpreting the term "official" as a legal mandate to the receiving four-year institution to accept coursework as it appears on ASSIST, regardless of whether or not it is an accurate representation of the actual official articulation between two campuses.

For example, an instance of articulation may be developed and approved between two campuses and signed off by the appropriate campus officials. This information is subsequently entered into the ASSIST database, and a data input error occurs; thus, the instance of articulation on ASSIST does not match the actual approved articulation.

According to some community colleges, since ASSIST has been designated the "official repository," the articulation that appears on ASSIST then becomes the "official" articulation, regardless of the fact that it is inaccurate. There may be additional issues that cause similar difficulties including lag time for data entry.

In discussions with community colleges about this matter, I have attempted to explain that the "official" articulation is that which has been approved by the appropriate campus officials, and it is the intent of ASSIST to house and accurately represent that information. If it is not accurately reflected in ASSIST, then the discrepancy needs to be brought to the attention of the appropriate people and corrected. And on more than one occasion, the community college has responded with, "yes, but if ASSIST is the official repository, then you have to take the course listed." I have chosen not to respond directly to a statement of this nature, but instead address the issue of appropriate preparation for the student, etc.. However, I sense that in the very near future, there will be a major confrontation in this regard unless we more clearly define the intent of ASSIST as the official repository of articulation for the State.

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the ASSIST Board of Directors clarify this aspect of "official" and clearly communicate it to campuses and via Web ASSIST.