

ASSIST Board of Directors - Issue Briefing Document Notifying Colleges of Data Updates - April 29, 1998

Marilyn Rowe, Articulation Officer at Laney College, has provided the following information regarding current problems with colleges not being notified of changes to articulation agreements. This item will be on the agenda for the May 18, 1998 meeting of the ASSIST Board of Directors.

Background

Laney College (and presumably a number of others) has a limited number of computers on campus for student to access ASSIST. Given the demographics of much of the Laney College student population, high numbers of students do not have computers at home and their only access to the Internet may be at the college. Given these limitations, many students still depend on paper copies of articulation agreements for academic course selection as well as comparing the requirements among schools. Hard copies of the most frequently requested majors are always available. Other majors are printed upon request. This type of usage shows no sign of letting up.

In the past, universities would distribute paper copies of articulation via college articulation officers and it was possible to compare different versions of agreements to determine what had changed. Now that ASSIST has been supporting monthly distributions of articulation agreements, many universities no longer distribute paper copies to college articulation officers.

Issue

With many students continued reliance on paper and the automated distribution of articulation agreements, college articulation officers are not always being informed when there are SIGNIFICANT changes to an agreement. This means that paper copies of agreements are not always being replaced with the most current information. It is a time consuming and unreasonable task for colleges to run new copies of everything once a month.

While the ASSIST Coordination Site is building into the new Web ASSIST Maintenance System new capabilities for disseminating information about changes via email, this system is almost a year away from availability. College articulation officers need to be informed in a timely, efficient way when changes are made so that old copies can be replaced with the new information.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the ASSIST Board of Directors discuss this issue and determine if anything can be done to help.