

**ASSIST Board of Directors
Director's Report - November 1997 - Page 1**

The following is a summary of the various activities in which the ASSIST Coordination Site has been engaged. There will be time on the November 3, 1997 meeting agenda to discuss these items in more detail.

1. Web ASSIST Deployment

All ASSIST articulation and TCA information is now available on the Web for any students, faculty and staff who have access to the Internet via standard Web browsers. This project was completed on time (deployed on October 6, 1997) according to the Coordination Site's original project plan.

During September and October, ACS staff attended the various UC and CSU counselor conferences and provided on-line demonstrations of Web ASSIST. A total of about 240 people attended these sessions.

On October 15 (in Walnut Creek) and October 16 (in Irvine) the ACS sponsored half day seminars for interested college and university staff to see a demonstration of Web ASSIST and to hear a general update on various other ASSIST activities. A total of approximately 250 people attended these two events.

The ACS is now monitoring the use of Web ASSIST and, at the November 3rd Board meeting, will provide summative usage information during the first month.

At the December Annual ASSIST Conference, there will be time for campuses to discuss the effectiveness of the system and make recommendations regarding future modifications they would like to see implemented. This may result in a software development project proposal for the TAC and Board to consider according to the ASSIST Software Development Framework guidelines.

Note: Support for the older, telnet-based "ASSIST on the Internet" software has now been discontinued and all campuses have been notified. Anyone who tries to log in to this older software is directed to access ASSIST via the Web.

2. Web ASSIST Articulation Maintenance Development

The TAC has reviewed the Web ASSIST Maintenance Project Plan, and with the recent hiring of Starling Walter, a PowerBuilder programmer, the ACS has been working on the development of this new system. While this software is still being targeted for completion in December 1998, ACS staff got a late start on this project due to difficulties in hiring a new programmer. The TAC and Board will be notified if any problems arise that will cause deviation from the current project schedule.

**ASSIST Board of Directors
Director's Report - November 1997 - Page 2**

The Web ASSIST Articulation Maintenance Software will enable campus staff to conduct all data entry and updating directly in a centralized database via the Internet. When this software is completed and deployed, all further support for the Revelation-based ASSIST will be discontinued.

3. Articulation Data Extracts

In late October, the ACS distributed a new utility for the Revelation-based ASSIST software that enables campuses to generate extracts of ASSIST data that can then be used in other computer systems, such as local degree audit systems. This utility was originally approved by the Board as part of the ASSIST Version 3.5 Software Development Plan, but had to be delayed until campus staff and the ACS finalized the specifications for the extract files.

At the December ASSIST Conference, there will be a feedback session on the effectiveness of these extracts. Also, there will be a session exclusively for community colleges that will focus on ways that they might be able to use these extracts.

Providing data extracts from ASSIST satisfies one of the ASSIST Strategic Plan objectives aimed at encouraging integration between ASSIST and other campus-based computer systems.

4. IGETC & CSU GE-Breadth Lists

All 1997-1998 IGETC and CSU GE-Breadth data has been updated and distributed as planned. A number of colleges have continued to submit technical changes after deadline and have been told that those changes would please be made during the 1998-1999 update cycle.

5. User Training Sessions

The ACS has not conducted any large scale training sessions as it did last year (except for the two Web ASSIST Seminars). A number of campuses have been provided with individual training sessions (course list or articulation data entry) at the ACS as new staff have been hired or the campus has expressed an interest in expanding their data entry activities. There will be specific, large group training sessions on a few key topics at the December ASSIST Conference.

6. Regional Meetings

The ACS did not sponsor separate Regional Meetings this Fall and instead conducted the two Web ASSIST Seminars. At these seminars, campus representatives were provided with updates on a broad range of ASSIST activities and an opportunity to raise issues and concerns.

**ASSIST Board of Directors
Director's Report - November 1997 - Page 3**

Given the overall shift in direction for ASSIST to where it is a regular resource for all colleges and universities, the ACS is not expecting to sponsor regional meetings in the future. Rather, the approach of sponsoring larger, focused seminars on relevant topics when needed seems to meet the needs of the project more efficiently. The ACS is also continuing to investigate the use of teleconferencing and other related technologies to help meet their communication needs.

7. Database Coordination

The ACS is continuing the cycle of semi-annual complete database collections and distributions along with monthly incremental distributions. The complete articulation database has continued to increase at the expected rate as colleges and universities update their data throughout the year. The amount of data being distributed during the monthly updates has continued to rise significantly as UC and CSU campuses work to move their articulation updates out to colleges on a more timely basis.

It is expected that these cycles for data collection and dissemination will only need to continue for about another year. At that time, the new Web ASSIST Articulation Maintenance System will provide immediate publishing of data updates without the campuses having to send data to the ACS for further processing.

8. Data Entry for CSU Campuses not Using the ASSIST Software

The ACS has continued to work with the 10 CSU campuses who are not using the ASSIST software directly to enter their articulation data. All 10 of these campuses are providing data on a regular basis. This data entry work is being funded by the CSU Chancellor's Office and has continued to result in a significant amount of important articulation data being added to ASSIST. The ACS is expecting to continue coordinating this data entry in coming years.

9. ACS Staffing

The ACS has hired Starling Walter as the new PowerBuilder programmer to work on development of the Web ASSIST Articulation Maintenance System. This was the final ACS staff position approved by the Board.

As stated in the last Director's Report and at the May 1997 Board meeting, in July 1997 the ACS discontinued the Progress Check Technical Writer position previously held by Jerry McMillan.

10. Progress Check Services

As indicated in their earlier communications, Fullerton College, Irvine Valley College, and Long Beach City College are the only colleges who have subscribed to continue using the Revelation-based ASSIST Progress Check Software. The ACS is providing them with basic services as outlined in earlier correspondence. All other campuses with the Revelation-based ASSIST software have been locked out of accessing the Progress Check.

11. California Virtual University

The California Virtual University Design Team has been expressing strong interest in ASSIST. Director Taggart has attended a few meetings to brief various Design Team committees on the capabilities and current status of ASSIST. The Design Team is writing a letter to the ASSIST Board to officially express their level of interest and ask for more formal ties to investigate future possibilities for developing linkages between the Web-based CVU Catalog and ASSIST.