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The following is a summary of the various activities in which the ASSIST Coordination Site has been engaged since the May 2000 Board meeting. There will be time on the October 23, 2000 meeting agenda to discuss these items in more detail.

**1. Staffing Changes**

For the past few years, the CSU Chancellor's Office has been contracting with the ASSIST Coordination Site to do the articulation data entry for 11 of the CSU campuses. The Coordination Site has received approximately \$88,000 annually from the CSU Chancellor's Office to pay for 3 corresponding data entry staff. In January 2001, the new Articulation Maintenance System will be deployed and 9 of these 11 CSU campuses have elected to begin doing their own articulation agreement data entry using the new system. This means that the CSU Chancellor's Office will only be contracting with the Coordination Site to do the data entry for 2 campuses and effective December 31, 2000 the Coordination Site will discontinue the positions for the 3 staff who have been doing this work.

**2. Web ASSIST Usage**

Use of Web ASSIST for looking up articulation information has continued to be very strong. After a predicted lull during the summer break, Fall usage has resumed as expected.

	<u># Reports</u>	<u># Server Hits</u>
January	150,982	2,212,652
February	123,346	1,617,471
March	148,151	1,954,262
April	134,306	2,603,475
May	186,596	2,705,114
June	130,143	1,907,704
July	117,928	1,722,788
August	159,561	2,327,835
September	170,000 est	2,500,000 est

The Coordination Site is continuing to provide detailed Web ASSIST activity reports on the ASSIST Information Center under the "Database" category. More detailed information on usage can be found there. Colleges and universities use this information to monitor the number of reports being requested for specific institutions/majors each month. This information is automatically updated on a regular schedule.

Beginning in late August, the Coordination Site started to receive sporadic feedback that sometimes Web ASSIST started to give the information for a long report and then paused for many minutes in the middle, often not completing the requested report. Further

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investigation showed that this happened at only some locations during peak periods of Internet and Web ASSIST activity. A specific solution has still not been found, so the Coordination Site began using a backup server to help share the workload in providing Web ASSIST articulation information. Since the backup server was put on-line in tandem with the primary server, no further reports of incomplete data have been received. Coordination Site technical staff continue to look for the actual cause and appropriate solution to this problem.

On October 11 around 11:00am, the backup server that was helping share the workload for Web ASSIST crashed. Full use of Web ASSIST was restored within 15 minutes. However, the backup server was also running the ASSIST Curriculum Update System which was open for the Spring 2001 curriculum update cycle. The Curriculum Update System was brought back on-line late in the morning the next day. A specific problem with the backup server could not be identified, but Coordination Site technical staff are keeping a close eye on it in case another failure occurs.

### **3. Curriculum Updates and Error Corrections**

All public colleges and universities are continuing to use the new Web ASSIST Curriculum Update System to provide details on curricular changes to transferable and articulated courses. The Winter 2001 update was conducted during September and the Spring 2001 update was conducted in October. The server crash detailed above did not affect campus work on the Spring 2001 update to any significant degree. There has continued to be a very high level of compliance on the part of all colleges and universities in using this system to update their curriculum information in ASSIST.

Coordination Site staff conducted a training session on the Curriculum Update System at the "New Articulation Officer Training" hosted by the CCC Chancellor's Office in September. Further training sessions will be offered at the Annual ASSIST Conference in December, and at the annual CCC conference in Spring.

In June, the Coordination Site distributed the most recent curriculum update data to all universities for use in entering and updating 2000-2001 articulation agreements using the Revelation ASSIST software.

The Coordination Site has continued to receive many curricular error corrections and late course additions via the web-based form (outside of the normal update schedule), but the overall volume via this method has dropped to a level where Coordination Site staff are able to keep up fairly well.

#### **4. Web ASSIST Articulation Maintenance System Development**

The Coordination Site has continued its work on the development of the new Web ASSIST Articulation Maintenance System that will replace the Revelation ASSIST software. The Coordination Site is on-track for a January 2001 deployment of this system. 2 CSU and 2 UC campuses have just concluded beta testing the new system and no significant problems were found. Final collection of Revelation data will be November 22, 2000 and the Coordination Site will do final data conversions during December. Five, two day training sessions for university staff have been scheduled for early January after which universities will begin using the new system.

Further details on this topic will be discussed at the October 23 Board meeting.

#### **5. Data Cleanup and Conversion**

The Coordination Site has continued its work on database clean-up and conversion activities related to the development of the new Web ASSIST Articulation Maintenance System. Most recent work has been focused on the final step of aligning course information between the curriculum data in ASSIST and the UC Transferable Course Agreements database whose data entry is managed by the UC Office of the President using the older Revelation ASSIST software.

#### **6. UC/CSU Articulation Officer Meeting**

On June 20, 2000 the Coordination Site conducted another meeting of any interested CSU and UC articulation officers to preview the new Articulation Maintenance System under development. The preview was held at UCI in a computer lab where all attendees were able to use the new system under development. It is hoped that by conducting these previews, university staff will be better prepared for the new system when it is released.

#### **7. ADA Compliance of Web ASSIST**

Because of the intense work by Coordination Site staff to finish the development of the new maintenance system in time for a January 2001 release, no further work has been done regarding increasing the ADA compliance of Web ASSIST. This remains a top priority, and work is scheduled to resume on this item in January.

### **8. Model Articulation Format Committee**

The Coordination Site has been working with the CIAC to convene a committee to develop a proposed “Model Articulation Format” for presentation to the ASSIST Board at their Spring 2001 meeting. The committee has met once and has scheduled two more meetings. Further information on this activity will be discussed at the October 23 Board meeting.

### **9. IGETC & CSU GE Certification**

All 2000-2001 IGETC and CSU GE Certification information was published in Web ASSIST this past summer. Now that these data are aligned with the other curriculum data in ASSIST, a few colleges had new courses that were approved for IGETC or CSU GE in 2000-2001, but were not included in ASSIST since they did not have any curriculum data for those courses. The Coordination Site followed up in each of these cases to ensure that the college knew what to do to get those courses included in ASSIST.

### **10. Planning for the Annual ASSIST Conference**

The Annual ASSIST Conference will be held on December 5 & 6, 2000 at the Walnut Creek Marriott. The Coordination Site has been working hard on planning a conference similar to last year which focuses on campus ASSIST activities. Further information on the conference will be discussed at the October 23 Board meeting.