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The following is a summary of the various activities in which the ASSIST Coordination Site has been engaged since the January ASSIST Board Strategic Planning meeting. There will be time on the May 21, 2001 meeting agenda to discuss these items in more detail.

1. New Articulation Maintenance System and Web ASSIST

In January 2001, the ASSIST Coordination Site completed the development of the new ASSIST Articulation Maintenance System, provided training to all UC and CSU campus ASSIST staff and activated the new system. This new system represents the final step in phasing-out the older Revelation-based ASSIST software. All universities are now using this new system to maintain all articulation agreements in ASSIST.

The new Articulation Maintenance System includes a number of new features including:

- S** Online maintenance of a central articulation database using current windows-style technologies for the data entry software
- S** Overnight publishing of new and updated agreements from the maintenance database into the public Web ASSIST system
- S** Automated email notifications to colleges whenever new agreements are published or existing agreements are changed
- S** Complete integration of articulation agreements with the central ASSIST curriculum data
- S** Increased consistency of information

In March 2001, the Coordination Site activated the new Web ASSIST system that is integrated with the new Articulation Maintenance System. As reported in other venues, after Web ASSIST was activated performance on both systems was extremely slow. The Coordination Site has made significant improvements in the response time of Web ASSIST and the Articulation Maintenance System but there are still a number of important steps to complete to ensure that it is working at optimal speeds.

2. Web ASSIST Usage

Use of Web ASSIST for looking up articulation information has continued to be very strong. After a predicted lull over the winter break, spring usage has picked up significantly. Overall usage for this academic year so far is approximately 50% higher than last academic year at this same time.

	<u># Report</u>	<u># Hits</u>
July 2000	117,928	1,722,788
August 2000	159,961	2,327,835

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September 2000	121,018	2,083,569
October 2000	157,931	2,553,051
November 2000	198,199	3,012,752
December 2000	112,316	1,781,504
January 2001	165,530	2,616,264
February 2001	137,523	2,155,163
March 2001	*	2,843,238
April 2001	*	3,229,548

* # Reports not yet being calculated with the new Web ASSIST system

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 institution/majors each month. This information is automatically updated on a regular schedule. However, these activity reports are currently only showing overall hits and have not yet been updated to calculate "reports" generated with the new Web ASSIST system. This should be resolved in the next few months.

3. Curriculum Updates and Error Corrections

All public colleges and universities have been using the Web ASSIST Curriculum Update System to provide details on curricular changes for transferable and articulated courses. The Summer 2001 update cycle was conducted during February and the Fall 2001 update cycle during April. 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.

Immediately after each Curriculum Update cycle finishes, the new and updated curriculum information is made available for the universities to use in entering and updating articulation agreements using the new Articulation Maintenance System.

The Coordination Site has also continued to receive many curricular error corrections and late course additions via the web-based form. This is the process institutions use to correct historical errors in curriculum and to submit new courses being added after the update cycle for a given term closes. The volume of error corrections has leveled off during this year and the Coordination Site has been able to enter these changes in a timely manner.

4. TCA Data Clean-up

With the release of the new system, there are still some data inconsistencies across the UC transferable course agreements, CSU baccalaureate lists, IGETC lists and CSU GE Certification lists as related to the central curriculum data. Since much of this data is only updated once each year over the summer, the Coordination Site activated Web ASSIST with the TCA information only available in archived PDF files. This was explained in more detail in an earlier email.

Because the Coordination Site staff have had to focus much of their time on improving the performance of Web ASSIST, work on making the various TCA data consistent with the curriculum data has been slower than expected.

The Coordination Site has continued to work closely with UCOP staff on the clean-up and presentation of data related to the UC TCAs. The UC TCAs represent another important part of the overall database that must align with the centralized curriculum data in ASSIST. Since UC TCAs have been historically based on college catalogs (instead of curriculum files like the CSU Bacc, IGETC, and CSU GE lists) numerous discrepancies exist between the current UC TCAs and the curriculum data in ASSIST. These discrepancies must be examined carefully so that CCC courses are not mistakenly dropped from UC transferability during this transition.

Coordination Site staff hope to have all of these issues resolved over the summer so that 01-02 TCA data can be made available for the Fall term.

5. CSU Articulation Data Entry

For the past few years the CSUCO has contracted with the Coordination Site to do the data entry for 10 CSU campuses who were not using the older Revelation-based ASSIST software. This ensured that ASSIST included all available articulation for all CSU and UC campuses.

With the release of the new Articulation Maintenance System, those 10 CSU campuses were offered the opportunity to begin doing their own data entry. 8 of those campuses accepted the offer, have been trained, and are now managing the entry and maintenance of their articulation information directly in ASSIST. The CSUCO is continuing to contract with the Coordination Site for the data entry of articulation for SDSU and CSULA only.

6. 2001 Annual ASSIST Conference

The dates and location for the 16th Annual ASSIST Conference have been set for December 3 & 4 at the Newport Beach Marriot Hotel in Fashion Island.