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The following is a summary of the various activities in which the ASSIST Coordination Site has been engaged since the last ASSIST Board meeting. There will be time on the June 6, 2006 meeting agenda to discuss these items in more detail.

1. 2006 ASSIST Conference

On April 27, 2006 the Coordination Site hosted 180+ attendees for the 2006 ASSIST Conference in Santa Ana. Breakout sessions focused on presenting recent changes to OSCAR (includes changes to support CSU LDTP) and the new ASSIST Course Search and ASSIST Single Course Articulation Summary features. Overall feedback from conference attendees was quite positive. This conference was conducted jointly with CIAC who held session the afternoon before and the morning after the ASSIST day. All of the conference materials, including copies of all PowerPoint presentations are available on the ASSIST Information Center web site under the Publications menu.

CIAC is seeking another joint conference with ASSIST in spring 2007.

2. Course Search and Single Course Articulation Summary

On April 26, 2006 the Coordination Site activated the new Course Search feature that has been under development for the past few months. This feature was most recently proposed to the ASSIST Board by the “Matrix of Articulation Workgroup” that met in September 2005. Following presentations about its use at the ASSIST Conference, the Coordination Site has received a lot of positive feedback about this new feature. As described in the ASSIST Project Proposal for this feature, the course search is available to anyone who has authorization to access the ASSIST Articulation Maintenance System Reports web site (including all CCC, CSU, and UC articulation staff).

The Course Search is also the easiest way for colleges and universities to view course outline information that has been included in the ASSIST database via the OSCAR system. This feature was requested by the ASSIST OSCAR Advisory Committee as a mechanism for colleges to share their course outline information with other colleges and universities. The Course Search report includes links to OSCAR PDFs for any courses that have outline information. Users can select the “OSCAR Outline Exists” parameter in the search criteria to only see those courses with outlines.

ASSIST campus managers can give their institution's username and password to others on their campus who are interested in using the course search. They are expected to explain the limitations of the feature and how it is to be used for research and not as a replacement for traditional articulation in identifying comparable courses. At the ASSIST Conference some campuses expressed concern about the username/password policy and asked the Coordination Site to consider issuing usernames/passwords for individual campus staff/faculty on request.

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The Coordination Site agreed to monitor any security/access issues that arise in the coming months and reconsider the username/password policy during the 06-07 academic year.

In June 2006, the Coordination Site is expecting to activate the new Single Course Articulation Summary feature that is currently under development. This feature was also proposed to the ASSIST Board by the “Matrix of Articulation Workgroup” at the same time as the Course Search feature. The Single Course Articulation Summary feature has been reviewed by the Matrix of Articulation Workgroup and was previewed at the 2006 ASSIST Conference. It will also be accessed through the username/password protected ASSIST Articulation Maintenance System Reports web site.

3. Web ASSIST Status

Use of Web ASSIST has continued to increase in relation to the same time period in 2005. For the past 12 months (June 2005 through May 2006) over 860,000 people used ASSIST to request over 8 million reports in over 4 million visits. May 2006 is shaping up to be the busiest months ever for ASSIST. More detailed reports on ASSIST web site activity are updated daily on the ASSIST Information Center.

The following are some of the more details statistics about Web ASSIST and ASSIST Exploring Majors that were presented at the opening session of the ASSIST Conference. A complete copy of the presentation is available on the ASSIST Information Center web site under Publications/Conference Materials/2006 ASSIST Conference.

- During the 2005 Calendar Year
 - Almost 800,000 people used ASSIST
 - Only 18% used ASSIST prior to Jan 1, 2005
 - People viewed over 7.6 million articulation reports
 - About 25% of the time people started their session somewhere in the middle of the site (probably by following links from other sites that jump into the middle of ASSIST)
 - On average, people visited ASSIST 5 times during the year and viewed 2 reports on each visit
 - Google and Yahoo are the top sites referring people to www.assist.org
 - Followed by numerous CSU, UC, and CCC web sites
 - www.assist.org is the first result at Google and Yahoo for “assist”, “student transfer” and “course articulation”
 - ASSIST serves about 7,000 people and displays about 30,000 articulation reports on an average day
 - At peak times, one articulation report is being requested every second
- Of the 7.6 million reports viewed during 2005
 - 4.4 million (58%) CSU/UC Major Prep Articulation
 - 1.5 million (21%) CSU/UC Departmental Articulation

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- 150,000 (2%) CSU/UC Local GE Articulation
- 1.4 million (19%) CCC Course Lists
 - CSU Xfer, CSU GE-B, CSU AI, UC Xfer, UC Elig, IGETC
- 56,000 (< 1%) ASSIST Maintenance Reports
- Only 5.3% of the reports were requested from the Exploring Majors part of the web site
 - In recent months this has increased to 8%
- Majors Viewed - Overall
 - 86% (2456 of 2855) of available CSU/UC articulated majors were viewed during 2005
 - 82% (1616 of 1973) CSU Majors
 - 98% (840 of 853) UC Majors
 - These numbers include views of historic articulation and some of the 2855 articulated majors may no longer be applicable to current agreements
 - Business/Econ/Bio represented the most popular majors viewed (38%)
- Growth in Articulation Data
 - CSU/UC Major prep articulation with CCCs
 - Number of college-to-university major agreements available in ASSIST

	1999	2001	2006
CSU	38,635	55,927	101,354
UC	35,695	47,898	86,917
Total	76,329	105,826	190,277

4. ASSIST Articulation Maintenance Data Entry and Reports System

The ASSIST Articulation Maintenance System continues to operate effectively to support CSU and UC campuses in their data entry and updating of articulation agreements in ASSIST.

The Coordination Site offers free training on the ASSIST Articulation Maintenance System to interested university staff on request. Training is conducted in person at the Coordination Site in Irvine and campuses pay their own transportation and lodging expenses (if required).

The curriculum reports (and now the Course Search) in the ASSIST Articulation Maintenance System Reports web site remain available to Community College ASSIST Managers. This site requires a secured log in and allows colleges to view additional details in the curriculum data for all colleges and universities.

5. ASSIST Curriculum Update System Status

All public colleges and universities continue to use the on-line ASSIST Curriculum Update System to provide details on curricular changes for transferable and articulated courses. The annual schedule is posted for all CCC, CSU, and UC campus managers and they are emailed

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with additional detail as each cycle approaches. The Coordination Site offers ASSIST Curriculum Update System training via telephone conference call at various times throughout the year as well as an on-line training package.

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. For the Fall term update of each year the Board requests the Coordination Site to ensure all colleges and universities submit an update. Only three colleges did not submit updates for the Fall 2006 cycle..

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

The Coordination Site also continues to receive many curricular error corrections and off-cycle course additions via the web-based error correction/late additions form. This is the process institutions use to correct historical errors in their ASSIST course data and to submit new courses being added after the update cycle for a given term closes.

6. OSCAR Status

Year-round operation of the OSCAR component of ASSIST continues and all colleges used this system to submit outlines for the 2005 reviews of courses for UC transferability, and 2006 reviews of IGETC, CSU GE-Breadth, and CSU American Ideals courses. Colleges can download course outline data from their campus curriculum management system (if they have one), copy/paste outlines from other electronic sources, or type the information directly into OSCAR.

The Coordination Site is conducting OSCAR training via telephone conference call on the second Tuesday of each month from May through November 2006 and an on-line training package is available at any time.

On April 10, 2006, the Coordination Site activated a number of enhancements that were proposed by the ASSIST OSCAR Advisory Committee and approved by the ASSIST Board. This included changes to the format of the data for colleges that download course outline information to OSCAR.

Coordination Site staff have completed the development of enhancements to OSCAR for the "CSU LDTP in ASSIST" project. More information on this activity will be discussed at the June 6 Board meeting.

The UC Office of the President articulation staff continue to use the ASSIST OSCAR UC TCA Review System to record final transferability decisions and email decision notifications on all

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courses submitted for UC TCA review. Final UC TCA decision information is immediately available in ASSIST once a college's review has been completed.

The CSU Chancellor's Office operates another component of OSCAR that is used by UCOP articulation staff, CSUCO staff, and CSU campus articulation staff and faculty who are involved in annually reviewing and approving IGETC, CSU GE-B, and CSU AI requests. This system receives all outline data submitted via the ASSIST OSCAR component (for IGETC, CSU GE-B, and CSU AI requests) and enables on-line reviews, recording of decisions, email notifications to campuses, and transmitting final decision information back to ASSIST. ASSIST collaborates with the CSU Chancellor's Office to ensure smooth communication across the two OSCAR systems.

7. 06-07 TCAs

In late May, the Coordination Site will be publishing the 06-07 CSU Baccalaureate Lists, the 06-07 CSU GE-Breadth Lists, and the 06-07 IGETC Lists for all CCCs. 06-07 CSU American Ideals lists for CCCs will be published throughout the year as CSUCO provides updates.

The 06-07 TCA data is published after the Fall curriculum update cycle closes each year and after the Coordination Site receives the annual CSU GE-B and IGETC updates from the CSU Chancellor's Office OSCAR system.

8. Articulation Data Extracts Status

Many CSU and UC campuses continue to use data extracts from the ASSIST database in order to support their work with local campus-based information systems, such as degree audit systems. Other statewide efforts such as CaliforniaColleges.edu also use the data extracts in various ways. UCOP uses ASSIST data for the Pathways system to facilitate more accurate student self-reporting of CCC coursework in their on-line admissions applications. CSU Mentor and CaliforniaColleges.edu are considering the use of ASSIST data extracts to support a new method for students to self-report community college coursework in a more accurate manner than is currently employed. National University does not appear interested in continuing their subscription to use ASSIST curriculum data extracts.

9. "Articulation Not Honored" User Feedback

The Coordination Site continues to receive feedback from ASSIST users on a daily basis. Most responses are from students asking various transfer and articulation related questions. Coordination Site staff forward these on to ASSIST managers at the respective campuses for follow-up.

During the 05-06 academic year, thirteen students submitted feedback about articulation not being honored.

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- Five students reported cases where they did not understand the difference between “transferable” and “articulated”. In these cases the students received transferable credit for courses, but their courses were not necessarily used in lieu of the university they expected (they assumed courses with similar titles were comparable when they were not actually articulated as being comparable).
- Three students reported cases where the university degree audit system did not apply a course to a requirement as expected. These were either cases where the student was viewing a preliminary degree audit (final records had not yet been received) or the student was not aware that they could petition that courses be applied to a different requirement.
- One student reported a case where transferable credit was denied in their university degree audit. The university acknowledged that it was in error due to an old articulation agreement that reflected a prior number for the CCC course. The university corrected the error in favor of the student.
- One student reported a case where their UC Pathways application showed a course as transferable but the UC Application Update system did not. In this case, Pathways was in error (due to a misunderstanding about how to apply end dates) and should not have shown the course as transferable. UC found in favor of the student since it was a problem in Pathways and not the fault of the student.
- One student reported a case where 21 units of coursework were not accepted as transferable credit as they expected. The courses were once transferable, but no longer transferable when the student took them. The university found in favor of the student and gave them full credit for the courses even though they were no longer transferable (accepting that the student had initially checked to make sure they were transferable but did not go back to check in subsequent years).
- One student (following a UC GTO contract to UCB) reported a case where they chose to take a different course assuming it would apply to GE (but not on their contract) since they figured the GTO contract guaranteed their admission. It appears that the student was still admitted to the university but credit was not given for the course since it was clearly not listed in their contract.
- One student reported a case where a test score had not been updated in her university record. While this was not an articulation issue, the university fixed their records in favor of the student.

There were also numerous cases of students reporting that university courses did not apply as expected to other universities. These were all cases where there was no university-to-university articulation for those institutions in ASSIST.

10. Ensuring Complete Articulation in ASSIST

Every Fall the Coordination Site emails each CCC campus ASSIST manager with a comprehensive summary of the CSU/UC articulation that is in ASSIST for their college and asks them to submit paper copies of any official university articulation they have received that is not

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included in ASSIST. This is intended to provide an annual process to ensure that the ASSIST database is complete (i.e. it includes all of the most current, official articulation that has been established between CCC and CSU/UC campuses).

This year 25 CCCs responded to the request. 24 affirmed that ASSIST was complete and only one reported articulation not in ASSIST. The missing articulation consisted of two individual college courses related to a single university. This year's results reflect the lowest amount of "incomplete articulation" in the many years that this has been tracked.

11. ASSIST Collaborations and Communications

In May 2006, Coordination Site staff attended the UC/CCC Ensuring Transfer Success conferences where ASSIST and the Exploring Majors feature were used prominently in some of the breakout sessions.

The Coordination Site continues to produce the semi-annual ASSIST Transfer Channel electronic newsletter for counselors and other constituents. The most recent issues was released in February 2006. Over 620 people have subscribed to automatically receive the newsletter when it is distributed in September and February each year. All current and past editions of this newsletter are available on the ASSIST Information Center web site.