

Subject: Comments regarding the letter from the Department of Chemistry

From: Claudia Cartaya-Marin <cartayacp@appstate.edu>

Date: 10/9/12 2:32 PM

To: Paulette Marty <martybjw@appstate.edu>

CC: Janice Pope <popejt@appstate.edu>, Michelle Hill <hillms@appstate.edu>

Dear Paulette,

Thank you for your recent message to the Council of Chairs. In that message you stated that, "the data does support my statement that over 11% of the transfer students sampled had transferred in a 3 s.h. science course and were 1 s.h. short of completing science inquiry. The percentage of incoming students who transfer in a 3 s.h. science is, of course, much lower since incoming students include freshmen as well as transfers."

The data the chemistry faculty received from Jane Rex on September 19th reveal several statistics regarding the Fall 2012 incoming class and the proposed reduction to the required Science Inquiry hours:

~ 11.74 % of the transfer students sampled would have been affected, (64/545)

~ 3.24 % of all incoming students would have been affected, including the 16 freshmen that transferred a 3-hour science course and assuming the 545 transfer students sampled are representative of the entire transfer class, (16+ [(64/545)*1063])/4344

~ 2.87 % of all incoming students were transfer students who would have been affected, [(64/545)*1063]/4344.

As you noted, the value depends upon whether the percentage of students is calculated out of the total incoming class or the much smaller transfer student population. Given that general education requirements are applied to all incoming students (except those who have already completed general education), it seems most appropriate to consider the entire incoming class when evaluating proposed changes to these requirements.

It also is worthwhile to consider the data at the department-level. The data reveal that 4 of 545 transfer students received Chemistry elective credit when transferring a 3-hour science course. The A.R. Smith Department of Chemistry offers a single freshman-level sequence, segregated into 3-hour lecture and 1-hour lab co-requisites - CHE 1101/1110 and CHE 1102/1120. If the 3-hour chemistry course was taken at a community college or another university, there are clear transfer articulation guidelines for what is accepted as their substitute. The student would receive Chemistry elective credit only if the course was not equivalent to our lecture. The student can challenge this transfer credit evaluation by taking the American Chemical Society final exam; if the student receives 80% on this exam the student can receive credit for the CHE 1101 or CHE 1102 lecture. If the course were equivalent to our chemistry lecture, the student would receive credit for our lecture and only have to take the 1-hour lab co-requisite. Thus within our own

department, the proposed changes would do nothing to ease the burden on transfer students who are transferring an equivalent lecture without an associated lab course.

From the calculations shown above we can see that about 3.24 % of incoming students would be affected by the proposed change to the Science Inquiry requirements. The letter you received last week from the Faculty of the Chemistry department states that "a sampling of Fall 2012 enrollment suggests that less than three percent of incoming students would be affected by the proposed change to the Science Inquiry requirements." In the original letter we neglected to consider the 16 freshmen that transferred a 3-hour general science without an associated lab. A more accurate number is 3.24 % instead of "less than three percent".

The Chemistry Department faculty firmly stands behind the original conclusion that only a small percentage of the total incoming class would be affected by the proposed changes to the Science Inquiry requirement. We all would be interested to see a full analysis of the Fall 2012 transfer students, as this will remove uncertainty in extrapolating from a representative sampling of the transfer class. We look forward to continuing the conversation regarding the Math and Science Inquiry requirements in our General Education Program.

Thank you again for your message.

Sincerely,

Claudia

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On 10/5/2012 11:21 AM, Janice Pope wrote:

FYI

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Please forward to Council of Chairs

Date: Fri, 05 Oct 2012 11:15:02 -0400

From: Paulette Marty <martypjw@appstate.edu>

To: Janice Pope <popejt@appstate.edu>

Dear Chairs,

I followed up with Jane Rex in the Office of Transfer Articulation this morning to try and clarify the conflicting numbers mentioned yesterday regarding the percentage of students who enter the university short one hour of science inquiry credit. In the Department of Chemistry response to the GEA recommendations, it states "a sampling of Fall 2012 enrollment suggests that less than three percent of incoming students would be affected by the proposed change to the Science Inquiry requirements" (2). The source of this data is listed as a correspondence with Jane Rex on September 19. Jane forwarded me the data she shared with the Chemistry faculty on that date and I have attached it to this email.

As you will see, the data does support my statement that over 11% of the *transfer* students sampled had transferred in a 3 s.h. science course and were 1 s.h. short of completing science inquiry. The percentage of *incoming* students who transfer in a 3 s.h. science is, of course, much lower since incoming students include freshmen as well as transfers.

Thanks,
Paulette

PS: Kristin Hyle, Assistant Director of General Education, is currently analyzing the records of all transfer students who entered the university this fall to compile a comprehensive list of all those who are short 1 s.h. of Science Inquiry credit. Once we have that final list, we will share it with the chairs of the departments who teach in the Science Literacy Perspective.

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