Advanced Standing Committee
February 21, 2011

Ms. Rita Archer, Ms. Julia Brown, Mr. Phuoc Dang, Dr. Ellen Fancher-Ruiz, Ms. Alethea Hamilton, Dr. Beth Harper, Ms. Alice Hedley, Ms. Gert Heslin, Ms. Zina Jemison, Dr. Kathleen Ludlow, Ms. Niki Neal, Ms. Carol Oandasan, Dr. Sheri Robertson, Ms. Angie Robinson attended.

Minutes of October 25, 2010 Meeting
The minutes of the October 25, 2010 meeting were approved as distributed. Dr. Robertson provided an update on the status of recommendations made at that meeting. In particular, she noted that the Administrative Council approved the PED advanced standing recommendations and asked that the faculty consider more such opportunities for students participating in NOVA team sports.

CLEP Update: Composition
Dr. Robertson reported that the English faculty reexamined the College Composition and College Composition Modular CLEP examinations. As of July 2010, the College Composition exam replaced the English Composition CLEP exam for which we gave credit for ENG 111 (3 credits). The College Composition Modular exam replaced the Freshman College Composition CLEP exam for which we gave credit for ENG 111-112 (6 credits). The English Cluster voted to consider the College Composition exam as covering content equivalent to ENG 111 (3 credits). They also voted NOT to give any credit for the College Composition Modular exam.

The committee emphasized that it will be important to disseminate this information widely. Members suggested that at a minimum information be sent to counselors, deans, testing centers, and advisors.

CLEP Update: Mathematics
Ms. Heslin inquired about the College Mathematics CLEP exam. Committee members were not aware of changes, but Ms. Oandasan volunteered to review the list of CLEP exams to see if there are others that we need to ask faculty to review in order to keep our manual current.

VCCS Study of International Baccalaureate Credit Granted by Virginia Universities
In response to recent legislation, the Academic and Student Services Advisory Council (ASAC) of the VCCS is examining the practices of Virginia universities regarding granting advanced standing for students who take IB courses. Dr. Dever is on the committee looking into this, and he sought Ms. Brown’s assistance. In addition to researching other colleges’ websites, Ms. Brown spoke with our regional IB contact in Bethesda.

Ms. Brown was able to locate definitions of the meaning of scores on IB exams and an IB site that lists policies of state colleges including NOVA (but few others in Virginia). She also found that eight Fairfax County high schools offer IB. The IB website provides curriculum briefs for 22 topics, but not others; that is because these are a new feature and briefs are still being added.

Dr. Robertson explained that Dr. Dever will take this information to the VCCS. It is anticipated that ASAC will recommend a revision to policy requiring all VCCS colleges to accept IB credit but it is too soon to know specific scores that the ASAC might require.
Foreign Transcript Evaluation
Dr. Harper reported that she and Steve Bennett have reviewed companies and organizations that evaluate international transcripts. They believe that AACRAO and WES are the best. Dr. Harper explained that AACRAO is an organization (not a company), and so is not on the NACES list of transcript evaluators. She noted that an AACRAO contact told her they might be able to give NOVA students a discount.

College Credit through Advanced Standing
Dr. Robertson asked for suggestions for keeping the advanced standing manual current. She reported that Germanna Community College is learning from our experience and is very impressed with our manual and our processes.

PLACE
Dr. Fancher-Ruiz announced that Ms. Kimberly Ellis hopes to offer PLACE at AN this summer. An adjunct, Mr. Rusty Schaffer, is still offering PLACE at AL. MA, however, is no longer offering PLACE; Dr. Robertson needs to revise the advanced standing manual to reflect this change.

Strayer English and Math
There is a great deal of concern across the college that students who take English and math at Strayer University come to NOVA ill-prepared for subsequent courses. The committee recommends that faculty examine syllabi to compare specific course content, assignments and assessments with those in “equivalent” NOVA courses.

Visiting (Transient) Students
Committee members stated that there is some confusion on the campuses about whether or not visiting students will need to take placement tests if they become regular NOVA students. They will have to do so.

Next Meeting
The next Advanced Standing Committee meeting will be April 25 at 1:30 in the Large Board Room of Brault.