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STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

POUCH F - STATE OFFICE BUILDING
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-2854

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House Health, Education and Social Services
Committee

Rep. Donald Clocksin, Chairman Rep. Mike Beirne
Rep. Bette Cato Rep. Terry Martin
Rep. Jim Duncan

FROM: Kerry D. Romesburg, Executive Director
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

RE: HB 34, Course Articulation Guide

DATE: April 20, 1981

The Commission on Postsecondary Education strongly endorses this bill and encourages its passage. A brief position paper stating this support is attached as is a short summary of some comments received during testimony before the Legislative Interim Committee on Community Colleges.

There are some amendments for which we would appreciate your consideration. These amendments are:

page 1, lines 6-7 ". . .course [ARTICULATION] transferability
guide. . ."

page 1, line 13 ". . .course [ARTICULATION] transferability
guide. . ."

page 1, line 16 ". . .course [ARTICULATION] transferability
guide. . ."

page 1, lines 18-19 "course [ARTICULATION] transferability
guide. . ."

page 1, lines 23-26 Amend to read:

(2) indicate courses which can be transferred for credit from one institution in state to another, together with the amount of credit assigned to each and the type of credit transferred accepted.

page 1, lines 27-29 DELETE

page 2, lines 1-2 DELETE

page 2, line 3 ". . .course [ARTICULATION] transferability
guide. . ."

page 2, line 4 ". . .course [ARTICULATION] transferability
guide. . ."

POSITION STATEMENT ON THE NEED FOR A
TRANSFERABILITY GUIDE

There are problems surrounding the transfer of credit from one Alaska college to another. Within the University of Alaska system, the problem is not that credits do not transfer, but rather that they may not be credited toward particular majors and degrees. In other words, a community college student might transfer 60 hours of credit to a university center, but still have three years of study left to complete major and degree requirements. The Commission believes the students have an absolute right, as consumers of higher education, to be fully apprised of their status.

A transferability guide should be developed for Alaska. The guide should include the University of Alaska, Alaska Pacific University, Sheldon Jackson College, and appropriate vocational schools and programs. It should be emphasized that this would be a transferability guide for students, it would in no way attempt to indicate what should transfer or how a transfer should be credited. The guide merely reports what courses transfer, what they are equivalent to, and how they are credited within the receiving institution.

With such a guide in hand, a student or an advisor knows whether or not a particular course will transfer to another institution and, if so, whether it transfers as an elective credit or a credit toward major course requirements. Transferability guides in one form or another exist in fourteen states¹, all of which have systems vastly more complex than ours. We have two excellent models from Florida and Arizona which we would propose to duplicate for Alaska.

This is an excellent service which we can provide for the students in Alaska, without a great deal of expense, particularly after the initial development year.

¹According to a survey conducted by Dr. Jane Ryland of the State Higher Education Executive Officers' (SHEEO) NETWORK Office, Fall, 1980.

TESTIMONY REGARDING TRANSFER
OF CREDITS

The following excerpts are from transcribed tapes of persons testifying before the Legislative Interim Committee on Community Colleges. The excerpts included here are from hearings at Kenai Peninsula Community College and Anchorage Community College.

1. Kenai - faculty member, November 14, 1980:

"One of the areas we ran into in terms of transferability [was that], they (University of Alaska, Anchorage) told us they would not accept our classes as credit even though our students are learning the same concepts."

". . . I will counsel my students to go elsewhere. It is important for a student planning a degree program."

2. Kenai - administrator, November 14, 1980:

Transfer of credit "is a system-wide problem, and I do not think it will go away by changing the structure. . . . It is a matter of working with people wherever you are."

3. Kenai - faculty member, November 14, 1980:

"I find it difficult to understand students taking courses at any community college who cannot have (those courses) accepted when transferring to the university. I do not see the reason for that disparity among the community colleges."

4. Kenai - faculty member, November 14, 1980:

"The real problem is transferability of credits. I saw the conflict in Anchorage as basically personal rather than on the basis of what was in the course."

5. Kenai - businessman, November 14, 1980:

My daughter "transferred to the University of Nevada at Las Vegas with every credit transferred, no problem."

6. Kenai - businessman, November 14, 1980:

"Transfer of credits is really important. Many high school students are destined for college and attend (a community college) for a short period and take credits with them. A person spending money for college does not waste a couple of years if credits gained at (the community college) can be transferred."

7. Anchorage - faculty member, December 13, 1980:

". . . my community college electronics students would come back from registration and tell me they had been told that although they are majoring in electronics technology, they had to sign up as UAA students if they wanted to get credit for courses or be able to transfer credits to UAA. This back biting . . . not only does not accomplish anything . . . but it tears the hell out of the students. They suffer for it."

8. Anchorage - Student, December 13, 1980:

"(The students) are victimized from almost the moment they arrive on campus, with the high cost of tuition (and) uncertainty of course offerings, (and) the endless problems of taking courses at both UAA and

ACC and transferring credits."

9. Anchorage - faculty member, December 13, 1980:

"At present, I feel very uncomfortable trying to counsel a student in courses to take at (the) community college, because I am unsure what is going to be acceptable in a transfer program. I have tried to become familiar, but it is almost impossible."

10. Anchorage - faculty member, December 13, 1980:

"The first kind of problem we found are complaints that counsellors in the four-year school have told students the course work they took at the community college would not satisfy their program requirements, where a comparable course taken at the four-year school would. . . . The four-year school's official policy is that any course work taken at any community college is immediately acceptable for credit for the four-year program, but whether that course would satisfy some particular degree or program requirement is at the disposal of the four-year faculty in that program towards that degree. . . . The primary problem . . . is that sometimes programs within the four-year school make decisions and do not let the rest of the school know, and this creates difficulties for students."

11. Anchorage - faculty member, December 13, 1980:

"There is no firm book that says that if you are going to major in this in a four-year institution, these are the courses you ought to take now. . . . That is a university problem, but it is a problem that impacts upon our students. . . . There has been the very definite feeling, I think, that the four-year program is trying to keep their students from taking any courses at the community college."

"Because the community colleges are recognized and have been certified by the Northwest Accrediting Agency, and because they are part of the university system, the university has a principal that any course taken in the two-year school will be accepted for credit in the four-year school. The question is, what will it be allowed to count for? Whether there is a certain amount of credits toward satisfying some large graduation total, or whether it will satisfy (certain requirements)."

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. HB 34
 Title Course Articulation Guide
 Requested by House HESS Date 3/31/81

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Education
 Program Category Affected Commission on Postsecondary Education
 BRU, Program, or Subprogram(s) Affected Commission Administration
 (Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
100 PERSONAL SERVICES		41.9	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
200 TRAVEL		3.0	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
300 CONTRACTUAL		21.5	14.6	15.7	17.0	18.4
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL	N.A.	66.4	14.6	15.7	17.0	18.4

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
GENERAL FUND	N.A.	66.4	14.6	15.7	17.0	18.4
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Fund Source)						

POSITIONS

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
FULL TIME	N.A.	1.0	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY		1.0				

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

100 Pers. Srv. Includes hiring two persons, one for the life of the project and one temporary
 38.3 1.0 Research Assistant (Range 18, 12 mon.)
 3.6 1.0 Clerical (Range 9, 2 mon.)
 41.9

200 Travel. Includes three trips each to Anchorage and Fairbanks from Juneau.

300 Contractual, 9.0 Data processing, includes key punching
 10.5 Printing
 2.0 Miscellaneous
 21.5

Additional years contractual in printing and update at 8% inflation

IV. DATE March 31, 1981 PREPARED BY Kerry D. Rosenburg
 AGENCY Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
 PHONE 465-2354

Original Legislative Finance
 cc: Budget and Management
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

Rec'd
MAR 6 1981

Henrietta Venes
Box 384
Bethel, Alaska 99559
March 2, 1981

Representative Clocksin
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Guide

Dear Representative Clocksin,

I am writing about House Bill number 34. I am a senior in Bethel Regional High and find this bill would be very informational to all seniors. It would save the hassle of having to look through different college pamphlets. A student may find he or she likes the curriculum of one college over another after looking through the book.

Some students from Alaska go out of state because they do not know what is offered in Alaska and the provisions of this bill would correct that situation.

Sincerely,

Henrietta Venes
Henrietta Venes



Federation of teachers

Ralph McGrath, president, 2533 Providence, Anchorage, Alaska 99504, (907) 279-6722

February 16, 1981

Xerox

HB 34

alaska community colleges'

American Fed. of Teachers, Local 2404, American Fed. of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations

Representative Donald E. Clocksin
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Clocksin:

The Alaska Community Colleges' Federation of Teachers has had an opportunity to review House Bill 34, "An Act requiring the preparation of a course articulation guide covering courses offered in community colleges, colleges, and universities; and providing for an effective date." Faculty representatives from the eleven community colleges met on February 6, 1981 and after discussion, they overwhelmingly endorsed the preparation of a course articulation guide and agreed on the necessity for an external university body to undertake the review. We believe that the Post Secondary Education Commission is perhaps in the best position to develop the guide. We feel that students statewide need to have a clear understanding of the standards for transferability to University centers from a particular community college.

We wish to go on record as strongly supporting this legislation. We see it as a major benefit to the students who attend the University of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Ralph

Ralph McGrath
President, ACCFT

cc: Representative Michael F. Beirne
Representative Thelma Buchholdt
Representative Bette M. Cato
Representative Jim Duncan
Representative Terry Martin