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Panel: Dual Credit and Enrollment Issues at Community Colleges

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Faculty and Dual Credit/Enrollment Issues

Alec Thomson
Key Faculty Issues

- Curriculum control
- Instructor selection
- Student enrollment
- Academic freedom and legal considerations
Curriculum Control

- How much individualization is allowed within an instructor’s syllabus? Do departments have the ability to insist that all classes offer similar assessments or instructional material?
Curriculum Control

- Quality control
  - College level classes

- Who develops the classes?
  - Same syllabus?
  - Same assessments?
  - Same content?
Instructor Selection

- Who sets the minimum qualifications for faculty teaching the classes? Are classes being offered on campus and being taught by college faculty or are they being taught at the high school by K-12 teachers? When is one an employee of the college and when are they an employee of the K-12 district? Adjuncts or full-time employees? Where does seniority come into play?
Instructor Selection

- Minimum Competencies
  - Instructor qualifications set by college/university
  - Higher Learning Commission (HLC) faculty credentials
- Seniority/preference points for staffing?
- Who is the employer?
  - College?
  - High School?
- Unit composition questions?
  - Avoiding subcontracting out work.
Community colleges have open admissions policies, but can minimum thresholds on age or academic ability be put into place? Traditionally, dual enrollment has been targeted to recruit academically advanced students, but its expansion now calls into question whether students might use the program to enroll in developmental courses.
Student Enrollment

- Why are students enrolled?
  - Programming not available at high school?
  - Earn college credits?
  - Experience college?

- Which high school students are allowed to participate?
  - Admission standards
    - Community College has open enrollment
    - Universities can be more selective
  - Age
    - Do the institutions have a minimum age/grade level set for participation?
  - Parental involvement
  - Developmental/non-credit classes eligible?
Academic Freedom

- Does an instructor’s academic freedom change when he has a minor sitting in the classroom? In other words, can they treat the room as if they are dealing with adults even when the student population does not fit the profile?
Legal Considerations

- Does college policy require all faculty and staff to become mandatory reporters for cases of abuse? In many cases, the faculty member is not made aware that a dual enrollment student is in their class. Faculty need training on the FERPA guidelines when dealing with underage students.
Academic Freedom and Legal Considerations

- Interacting with minors brings with it a different set of responsibilities.
  - Mandatory reporting requirements
    - Who does your campus/state classify as mandatory reporters?
  - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) guidelines
    - Students in higher education settings have FERPA rights.
    - Different than high school
    - Waivers can be signed.
- Age appropriate course content
- Academic Freedom
  - Are students identified to instructor?