

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

**AGENDA ITEM: 5.B**

**DATE: April 3, 2013**

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**SUBJECT: Smarter Balanced Implementation Update**

Recently, Board staff attended a meeting at the Department of Education to start coordinating the effort to create a remedial curriculum for students in Grade 12 who are not deemed “college content ready” after they take the Smarter Balanced assessment. The goal is to create curriculum in math and ELA that will help reinforce the skills that these students need to enroll in a credit-bearing, entry-level course upon their arrival at college. Once the students complete this coursework, they will be retested using an assessment such as the Accuplacer and if they have made enough progress, they will be allowed to enroll in entry-level course. This way, students can address these deficiencies before they arrive at the System’s doorstep.

As the Council is aware, we are soliciting volunteers to plan this work. Faculty selected will work with Board and DOE staff and an equal number of K-12 teachers to plan and schedule working sessions this summer. A meeting with DOE staff is scheduled later this week and an update on this work will be available at the meeting. This planning group will be meeting in April.

The curriculum planning meetings will take place in late May or early June, and will be two-three day sessions. During these meetings, strategies and materials for possible curriculum pilots will be identified and developed. There will likely be a couple of groups working on math and a couple on ELA with meetings scattered around the state.

Also, the Smarter Balanced Achievement Level Descriptors were recently voted on and at national meeting in Arlington, VA. Since consensus was not achieved, discussions of these continue and a follow up vote is scheduled in mid-April.

Finally, we welcome South Dakota’s Smarter Balanced consultant, Dr. Robert Stein to the AAC and Board meetings this week. Dr. Stein is the former Commissioner of Higher Education in Missouri. He has been in contact with us throughout this process will be meeting with us to provide a broader perspective of the work that’s underway nationally, to discuss key issues facing the Consortium in the next few months, to address concerns of members of the Council or from the campuses, and to offer support and suggestions for engaging campuses in this work.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Information.