

CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING, LONE PINE, MAY 4, 2002

Notes on Panel Discussion, “Transferability and Articulation of Community College Courses,” Led by Dr. Melanie Renfrew, Lead Discipline Faculty in Geography, IMPAC Project (Intersegmental Major Preparation Articulated Curriculum Project)

About 33 community college and CSU faculty attended. While no UC faculty were present, and this was not an official IMPAC meeting, it provided a forum in which viewpoints were aired. The panel discussion began with information about the IMPAC Project and CAN (California Articulation Number) system for major requirement and elective courses. Four new lower-division courses were proposed for CAN numbers in a document drafted by participants at the statewide IMPAC meeting:

- ▶ World Regional Geography
- ▶ Geography of California
- ▶ Introduction to GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and
- ▶ Introduction to Weather and Climate.

Some CSUs offer a waiver for their own similar courses taught at the junior Level. Debate then ensued about these issues:

- ▶ whether the lower division courses are comparable in content and difficulty to the upper division ones
- ▶ the pros and cons of having more CAN numbered courses,
- ▶ whether CAN numbers will actually increase the number of majors overall because of increased enrollments,
- ▶ competition with other disciplines over the GIS course
- ▶ competition of having too many community college geography courses that students take instead of required general education
- ▶ and CSU and UC perceptions of community colleges and their offerings.

In general, core issues in transfer and articulation are about “turf” and trust between specific schools and faculty.

A vote was taken on the four courses and whether or not to recommend that a CAN number be proposed for each:

World Regional Geography: Unanimously in favor.

Weather and Climate: 23 - Yes, 1 - No, 4 - No opinion

Geography of California: 21 - Yes, 4 - No, 3 - No opinion

Introduction to GIS: 25 - Yes, 1 - No, 2 - No opinion.

Subsequent to the meeting and in consultation with IMPAC leaders, the proposal for World Regional Geography and Introduction to GIS were forwarded to CAN; the other two were delayed to give more CSU and UC faculty who teach California and Weather and Climate courses a chance to participate in IMPAC meetings next year when specific content and difficulty levels for these courses can be compared by those concerned.