Dear Local Senates Presidents:

The Academic Senate just got word this week that Chancellor Scott signed an MOU with Kaplan University (an online institution) regarding CCC students taking classes in conjunction with Kaplan (see below). It was signed in December. As you might expect, CCC faculty, senates, articulation officers, etc. are expressing surprise and concern.

The Academic Senate had not been invited to discuss the MOU while it was under development and this is clearly an academic matter. I will correspond with the Chancellor today.

We are just beginning to investigate the "how and why" . . . and I will keep you apprised of progress. For the time being, if you are asked about the MOU, I suggest that you indicate that we are looking into it at the state level. If your college is asked to participate, I would expect that senates would want to recommend that no arrangements be made without the concurrence of the academic senate, on the basis that this program falls under the “10 + 1 areas” of the academic senate.

Issues such as the below are just some preliminary concerns being sent to the Academic Senate regarding the MOU:

1. There was no involvement of Academic Senate in developing the MOU.
2. There is no provision in the MOU for requiring a local senate’s approval before entering into such an academic contract/agreement.
3. There was no input from articulation officers and many other constituent groups in the MOU development (e.g., counselors, Admissions and Records directors, student services, DSPS).
4. Kaplan’s accreditation may not meet approval for ACCJC---could jeopardize CCC accreditation.
5. Course content and quality are unknown or suspect. For example,
   a. They do not seem to have prerequisites in math courses;
   b. Their oral communication and science labs are 100% online, which CSU said they will not accept;
   c. It is uncertain whether Kaplan courses are fully accessible and ADA compliant.
6. We do not know whether CSU, UC and others would accept our students’ transcripts; this program could put all our students’ transcripts in question.
7. It has been reported that Kaplan has previously contacted individual community colleges with a similar proposal for an MOU. Their requests were denied, yet the Chancellor’s Office has now developed this MOU.

We suggest that senates speak to their articulation officer, administrators and others who may be asked to participate. One suggestion might be for the college to develop a consensus through their participatory governance processes about whether or not to participate.

I am certain there will be more information and discussion in the coming months and at our Spring Plenary Session in April. This letter is a quick response to a new issue raised this week. Details of the MOU are below, in a memo that the Chancellor’s Office sent to CCC articulation officers.

Sincerely,

Jane

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Hello everyone,

I wanted to share with you a press release issued today regarding a concurrent enrollment/transfer related MOU between the CCC Chancellor's Office and Kaplan University. Below is a link to the press release, followed by a link to the agreement.

http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/home/permalink/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20100208005324&newsLang=en


If you have any questions please contact me, thank you.

Bob

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