Systemwide Common Course Numbering Proposal

Background:
The there are 17,249 active courses in Banner (as of 8/5/14) across all 10 campuses; however, although we strive for it, we do not have systemwide common course numbering (CCN). CCN facilitates the ease of transfer for students across the UH system by identifying courses with comparable content and establishing consistency in course numbering for those courses (e.g., ENG 100 would be equivalent to ENG 100 and called the same at all campuses). CCN results in fewer unnecessary repetition of courses by transfer students and allow students to easily identify courses at other UH campuses that will fulfill their degree requirements. It may also reduce the repetitive need for decision making about transfer credits by campuses when completing transfer credit evaluations.

ACCFSC approved (by the majority present) on April 20, 2012, a CCN process for lower division Foundations/Basic courses that meet the General Education (GE) requirement to have the same course, alpha, number, title, basic description, prerequisites, and common core course level outcomes (also know as Student Learning Outcomes). In situations where three or fewer campuses differ with regard to course alpha, number, prerequisites, and/or Foundations/Basic GE designation, faculty representatives will work with respective VCAA to review and make changes as appropriate. When substantive differences occur, faculty representatives will meet at a face-to-face discipline meeting and the agreed upon solution will be administratively fast-tracked via the individual campus curriculum process.

The UH Community Colleges have UHCC Policy #5.301 Common Course Numbering whereby equivalent courses (judged to have highly similar content such that two campuses treat the course as essentially the same course) will be identified with the same course, number, alpha, and title. Conversely, courses that are not essentially the same shall be designated with different numbers, alphas, and titles.

Proposal:
With the plans to move to a new systemwide curriculum management system, Kuali Student Curriculum Management (KSCM), we will now be able to monitor curricular changes across the UH system and maintain CCN. KSCM, without modifications, does not allow for the reuse of numbers. Since there are ongoing issues of reusing numbers and/or not having enough numbers available for popular alphas across the system, we propose to move to a four digit course numbering system, which will require all campuses to make an adjustment to all their courses.

Under the new proposal, systemwide policies and procedures will be determined and implemented, and a crosswalk of all courses developed. Banner and ITS will be consulted to determine the best way to implement the changes using technology; however, we recognize some manual changes will be necessary.

Request:
Endorse the proposal for systemwide CCN, including moving to four digit course numbers along with the implementation of KSCM, to be implement by the May 2015.