

## SOCAMATYC Conference News

Over fifty mathematics faculty from all over SC gathered at the Barton Campus of Greenville Technical College for a daylong conference focusing on MAT 101 and MAT 102.

SOCAMATYC President, Frank Monterisi TTC, posed several PowerPoint slides and discussion questions to be addressed during the day. “ Am I teaching these courses differently than someone else in my own department? In my own state? What types of questions are on final exams for other schools? What can I do to improve success rates? Am I really supposed to be teaching the SAME material over and over again in two different courses? Why can't students FACTOR? “ The goal of the day was to discuss what can I/we do to improve toward a mastery level of success for our students?

In one break-out session, Frank Monterisi had participants exchange final exams and a checklist was used to determine whether each competency was tested or not tested on that Final Exam as well as what extra topics were being tested. For those topics not being tested at a high frequency, a discussion developed as to possibly deleting those competencies or to begin testing them. Are there certain skills which students were frequently missing on final exams? If so, should we consider removing extra topics being tested and spend more time on the weaker skills?

In another break-out session, Dr. Hala Nestburg, SOCAMATYC Vice-President, presided over a conversation on which competencies are most taught and which are least taught and why. A lively dialogue concerned calculator use. Discussions ensued pertaining to questions such as ‘Should all competencies be taught? What topics overlap in each course and could be removed? Should some be deleted or added? What topics are being taught in MAT 101 and MAT 102 that are not on the competency list, and why and how much class and test time is devoted to these topics? “

Frank Monterisi is currently in contact with members at the SC Technical College System office to discuss our conference with them and how best to move forward in potentially adjusting the competencies.

SOCAMATYC would like to thank GTC President, Dr. Keith Miller for hosting the event, SOCAMATYC Board members for organizing this conference, Cara Smyczynski TTC Coordinator MAT 101/102, each attendee who participated today, and Pearson Publishers and Hawkes Learning for providing faculty with textbook information and door prizes.

