Irene M Haskins* (haskinsi@fc.husson.edu), Irene Haskins, One College Circle, Bangor, ME 04401. Traversing Bumps Along the Road to a Contemporary College Algebra Curriculum. Preliminary report.
What happens when you invite the Dean to your contemporary algebra class to listen to the students present poster projects and there's a major disconnect? You're interested in how the students organized and used data on their posters, the students are excited to talk about their work and show off their posters, but the Dean initially zones in the student's shaky presentation skills. The result was a class full of bewildered students. How did the class turn this situation into a valuable learning experience and make the Dean happy on his next visit? How was the poster project handled the following semester to avoid the same issues? What happens when the excitement from other departments for your new contemporary algebra curriculum starts to vanish when registration issues arise as students realize that the class meets four days a week? The focus suddenly went from value of the new curriculum to frustration over scheduling. What was done to ease some of the scheduling problems, as well as regain support and build partnerships across the campus? This presentation will address these and other issues encountered in converting from a 3 day a week traditional college algebra program to a 4 day a week contemporary algebra program. (Received September 22, 2009)

