

District Planning Committee

Minutes

November 25, 2008

LACCD Board Hearing Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the DPC meeting held on October 29, 2008 were reviewed and approved.

Opening Remarks

G. Colombo distributed an article on “The 60 Minute Strategic Plan” and noted that SP timelines are constantly becoming more compressed. He also reported that the “LACCD Functional Map” continues to be reviewed by colleges around the District and that the DPC is expected to return for a closer look at the division of District/college roles and responsibilities in the spring.

DRC Report & PR Taskforce

C. Kozeracki reported on issues that emerged at the District Research Council. She noted that the DRC had begun discussing the schedule for the next Student Survey. It is hoped that planning for the survey will occur this spring and that the survey will be administered in Fall 2009. A brief update on the formation and initial meeting of the Program Review Taskforce was also offered. R. Tillberg was elected by members to chair the taskforce. The group met to identify goals and process issues. An outline of the process was presented, discussed and proposed for adoption at the next meeting. The next PR Taskforce meeting will begin the needs assessment process using mind-mapping techniques facilitated by B. Vaden.

College Strategic Plan Presentations to the Board

The committee returned to the issue of the process for college strategic plan reports to the Board of Trustees. G. Colombo reported that at its last meeting the Board had indicated the desire to see these reports delivered to the Committee on Planning and Student Success, and not to the entire Board sitting as a Committee of the Whole. DPC members discussed the order of these reports and agreed to recommend to the Board at its second meeting in December that the Cityside Colleges report in during Spring 2009 and that the Valleyside and Seaside Colleges follow up in the Fall and in Spring 2010. The process for these reports will be the same as previously agreed upon by the DPC.

Viability Processes

The committee discussed the effectiveness of recent college viability reviews. Pierce reported having conducted 4 reviews in the past 3 years, with outcomes that included program enhancement. Questions were raised about what triggers VR at different colleges and about whether VR tends to be used exclusively for CTE programs. It was generally agreed that VR should be used for program creation as well as for enhancement and discontinuance. It was also generally agreed that VR could be triggered by concerns raised during a regular program review process. Non-CTE program have also been involved in

VR. For example, the Foreign Language Department at LACC was the subject of a VR process a few years ago at LACC, with the result being the elimination of some courses and language disciplines. D. Beaulieu noted that the Board has raised questions about the effectiveness of the program viability review and shown some impatience with the slow pace of program creation, renewal, and discontinuance.

The committee did not take a position on the question of whether there needs to be any modification to the guidelines for VR in order to make the process more effective. Instead, it was recommended that the Program Review Taskforce also address the issue as part of its charge.

ARCC 2008 Draft Report

G. Prather recapped results of the ARCC 2008 report that were formally presented to the Board of Trustees during the Committee of the Whole on October 22, 2008. He noted that there are still serious issues with the ARCC data—particularly with the way ARCC measures Basic Skills advancement. These problems stem from the lack of agreement statewide about coding Basic Skills courses. The result is depressed success rates for both Basic Skills and ESL course sequences. The committee briefly discussed these data issues. It was agreed that the ARCC Student Success and Achievement Rate (SPAR) is probably the most reliable of the report's measures. The Fall-to-Fall Persistence rate is somewhat less dependable and the Basic Skills measures are the most unreliable.

EMSI Presentation to BOT

E. Pai presented copies of the summary documents associated with the recently completed EMSI LACCD Economic Contribution report. The report's findings include the fact that the district contributes roughly \$9.1 billion annually to the regional economy and that student's average annual earnings increase by \$209 for every unit of instruction they complete at an LACCD college. This information should be useful to college. The report, executive summary and key factsheets are available on the District homepage.

College Self Inventory

The College Strategic Plan Self Inventory results were presented to the group. In the first year of implementation, the colleges report having taken specific actions to implement roughly 50% of the activities mentioned in the Strategic Plan. Charts and tables summarizing the progress the nine Colleges are making towards each of the five main goals of the District Strategic Plan were reviewed and discussed. The committee expressed the need for further discussion, particularly on the nature of the indicators used in the Inventory. The BOT presentation, Summary and charts are available in the Strategic Plan section of the Institutional Effectiveness website.

State Distance Education Study

G. Prather and E. Pai informed the committee that the district would be participating in an up-coming statewide study of student withdrawal from distance education courses. They will be coordinating this effort for the district and will be in touch with college researchers on the issue in coming months.

Next Meeting

The DPC agreed to meet next on Wednesday, February 4, 2009.