

LACCD District Planning Committee

Minutes

August 1, 2007

Review of Minutes of 6/6/07 DPC Meeting

The minutes of the DPC meeting of 6/6/07 were reviewed and approved. Rod Patterson noted that WLAC President Mark Rocha had thanked the DPC for its constructive feedback on West's draft Ed Master Plan. He also informed the committee that the college plans to follow up by creating a detailed implementation matrix with measurable objectives. There are also plans to hire a Dean of Institutional Effectiveness at West.

Review of Proposed DPC Calendar & Projects for 2007-8

The committee reviewed a draft "DPC Calendar for 2007-8" that included projects or tasks for each DPC meeting throughout the year. The draft calendar was approved as submitted, with the addition of the task of reviewing "best practices" for Strategic and Ed Master Plans this fall.

Valley-side College Accreditation Update

Committee members reviewed the final ACCJC recommendations in response to the LAVC, LAMC, and Pierce College 2007 self studies. It was noted that calls for on-going systematic planning and SLO implementation and assessment continue to dominate the accreditors' recommendations to the colleges. It was recommended that an MOU with the AFT be pursued that formally recognizes the recommendations of the 2006 AFT/DAS Faculty Evaluation Taskforce for incorporating SLOs in faculty evaluations. A discussion ensued on the ACCJC's requirement for a "functional map" delineating the division of District Office/college responsibilities. Gary Colombo outlined the history of this effort in the District, noting that the Valley-side colleges had satisfied accreditors because last fall's District Summit had focused on this issue—and because of the "service outcomes" mapping that had been done under the direction of Senior Vice Chancellor Adrianna Barrera. It was generally agreed that there needs to be more discussion of this issue and that it might help if key functions or processes were mapped in addition to the service outcomes. It was also agreed that the District would be documenting its responses to all district-related recommendations for these and other ACCJC recommendations.

Review of AB 1417 Report Data

Committee members reviewed the "Accountability Reporting for Community Colleges" (ARCC) data. During this presentation, it was noted that District colleges compare well with other colleges in their "peer groups," but that they generally trail behind colleges in the immediate area. For example, as a District, the LACCD had a fall-to-fall persistence rate of 61.8%, while surrounding colleges had a rate of 70.6%. College representatives reported that there has generally not been much discussion of the ARCC data at the local level.

Review of Basic Skills Data

The committee also reviewed data associated with the Basic Skills Initiative self assessment process currently underway across the district. The following observations were made during this presentation:

- That placement rates in college-level English and math vary widely among the college, ranging, for example, from 2.2% to 28% in of all assessed first-time students in English/ESL
- That average class size for English & ESL courses is relatively low (27 and 28 respectively) while the average size of math classes is considerably higher (35)
- That full-time faculty appear to be actively involved in teaching basic skills in the district
- That in-class success rates are relatively high
- That class repetition rates vary significantly among the colleges, ranging from lows of 4.2/100 to highs of 20/100 or more
- That Fall-to-Fall persistence rates (about 65%) might look relatively good, but it should be remembered this rate factors out those who withdraw from class before the end of their first fall semester
- That the number of basic skills students who succeed in basic skills and ever attempt a higher level course is relatively low—ESL (57%), English (50%), or math (41%)

During the ensuing discussion, questions were raised about how intra-district transfers might impact these data and about how factors like commute times might affect student success. It was noted that the recently completed Student Survey 2007 might be able to shed some light on these and other issues related to student satisfaction and engagement. It was also suggested that moving to a district-wide assessment approach might make sense, particularly in light of the new district-wide application on line.

DPC Membership

The issue of future DPC membership was discussed. It was noted that because it is essentially a committee of practitioners—and not a body that makes recommendations that bear directly on workplace conditions—it need not involve shared governance-style representation. Instead, it should involve college representatives who are centrally involved in planning efforts at the local level. It was agreed that three representatives be solicited from each college and that one of these representatives should be the college researcher or dean of research and that at least one of the three should be a faculty member who plays an active role in the college's planning efforts (for example, the faculty co-chair of the educational planning committee). G. Colombo agreed to take this recommendation to the Chancellor's Cabinet and to communicate it to college and senate presidents so that DPC membership could be reconfirmed before the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date: September 26, 2007.