

LACCD Student Success Initiative

Steering Committee

December 13, 2006

Minutes

Attendees: David Beaulieu (ELAC), Laurence Bradford (LACC), Kathleen Burke-Kelly (LAMC), Gary Colombo (DO), Marcy Drummond (LATTTC), Angela Echeverri (LAMC), Pat Flood (LAMC), Tony Gamble (WLAC), Patrick Jefferson (LASC), Daryl Kinney (LACC), Stanislav Levin (DO), Alexandra Maeck (LACC), Leon Marzillier (DAS—LAVC), Joyce Moore (LACC), Joy McCaslin (LAPC), Ed Pai (WLAC), Abbie Patterson (LAHC), Genevieve Patthey-Chavez (LACC), Hector Plotquin (LACC), George Prather (DO), Joe Ramirez (LAMC), La Vergne Rosow (DAS—LAVC), Rebecca Tillberg (LACC), R.C. Williams III (ELAC), Maria Elena Yepes (ELAC)

Absent: John Clerx (District), Jack Daniels (LASC), Chini Johnson-Taylor (LATTTC), David Jordan (LAMC), Susan McMurray (LAHC), Laurie Nalepa (LAVC), Sabrina T. Odom (LASC), Gary Prostack (LAMC), Sally Raskoff (LAVC), Pat Siever (WLAC), Carlie Tronto (LAVC), Scott Weigand (LAVC), Mercy Yanez (LAHC)

Minutes of 11/8/06

The committee reviewed and approved, with minor revisions, the minutes of the SSI Steering Committee meeting held on November 8, 2006.

RP Group “Strengthening Student Success” Conference

G. Colombo reminded the committee about the RP Group’s 2007 student success and assessment conference, scheduled for October 3-5 in San Diego next fall. Copies of the presentation proposal form were distributed as were copies of Julie Slark’s SLO development rubric, which presenters are being asked to use to categorize the state of SLO implementation on their campus.

English Language Arts Taskforce

D. Beaulieu reported that he and G. Colombo had had a second “very positive” meeting with the English and ESL discipline committees in joint session on November 17th. The group has committed to the formation of a basic skills taskforce and decided that they will participate in it themselves. During the meeting, copies of the CCSF basic skills and English revision project data were shared. The group will meet again on January 12, 2007. Before that meeting, it is hoped that the taskforce will begin defining research questions related to English and ESL language arts outcomes. It was recommended that learning skills, counseling, and faculty from other disciplines be included in the taskforce.

State Basic Skills Initiative

D. Beaulieu updated the committee on developments related to the State’s basic skills initiative. He noted that some \$700,000 will be granted to a college to research best practices nationwide related to basic skills outcomes improvement. Later this spring, the CCCCO will sponsor regional workshops to disseminate these best practices.

AB 1417

G. Prather led committee members through the latest draft of AB 1417 effectiveness indicators. He noted that the data involved all come from state sources and that a number of serious questions remain about the reliability of some of these indicators. He also noted that the year-to-year changes that emerge from the AB 1417 data appear to be so small as to be negligible. Colleges will receive “draft 2” reports from the state on January 22, 2007, and will be expected to provide brief responses by February 23, 2007. In this response, colleges will be expected to analyze their overall performance, note the factors that have shaped college outcomes, paying special attention to those factors that may have contributed to underperformance. During the ensuing discussion, a number of points were made. It was noted that 4-year institutions also have relatively low graduation rates and that it may be unfair to focus public attention so narrowly on community colleges. It was also noted that while the AB 1417 outcome measures may be flawed, it is difficult to ignore the fact that the numbers for LACCD colleges are trending downwards in nearly all categories—in sharp contrast to the numbers for most surrounding institutions. Finally, it was noted that while the colleges will be considering the mitigating factors that underlie these negative trends in their responses to the state (and perhaps to the press), it will be more productive to use the AB 1417 report as an occasion to spark campus-wide debate on how to improve student success outcomes.

Draft Student Survey Questions

G. Prather presented the committee with a draft of the questions that are proposed for use in the 2007 student survey. He asked committee members to consider what specific questions they hope to answer through each proposed survey question related to student study habits and campus engagement, and challenged the committee to reflect on how the results would be used at the college level. He asked that committee members send their responses and suggestions for change to him by January 1st. During the ensuing discussion it was noted that our own in-house student survey would provide us with comparisons with nine colleges, while national surveys like the CCSSE often include results for colleges that are in no way comparable with ours. It was also noted that colleges would be able to add some questions specific to their campuses.

Next Steps?

The committee had a wide-ranging discussion of the “next steps” that are being taken in the SSI effort at the college level. At Southwest, for example, the SSI Committee is flowcharting the admission’s process. At ELAC, the Transfer Committee is establishing clear goals for increasing transfer rates. Valley is creating a “One-Stop” registration approach to increase persistence. Pierce reports that it is undertaking a number of SSI-related projects as the result of its recent exploration of SSI practices at Pasadena City College. Some 20 SSI projects have been included Pierce’s strategic plan, and the college also intends to follow up on these activities with visits to Chaffey and Bakersfield. It was suggested that all SSI best practices be collected and disseminated to the colleges this coming term and that an SSI website be created to make dissemination of SSI materials easier.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the SSI Steering Committee would meet next on Wednesday, January 25th, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., location to be determined.