

# LACCD Student Success Initiative

## Steering Committee

November 8, 2006

### Minutes

Attendees: David Beaulieu (ELAC), Kathleen Burke-Kelly (LAMC), John Clerx (District), Gary Colombo (DO), Marcy Drummond (LATTC), Tony Gamble (WLAC), Patrick Jefferson (LASC), Daryl Kinney (LACC), Stanislav Levin (DO), Alexandra Maeck (LACC), Leon Marzillier (DAS—LAVC), Sabrina T. Odom (LASC), Joy McCaslin (LAPC), Susan McMurray (LAHC), Laurie Nalepa (LAVC), Ed Pai (WLAC), George Prather (DO), Joe Ramirez (LAMC), La Vergne Rosow (DAS—LAVC), Pat Siever (WLAC), Rebecca Tillberg (LACC), Scott Weigand (LAVC), R.C. Williams III (ELAC), Mercy Yanez (LAHC), Maria Elena Yepes (ELAC)

Absent: Laurence Bradford (LACC), Jack Daniels (LASC), Angela Echeverri (LAMC), Chini Johnson-Taylor (LATTC), David Jordan (LAMC), Abbie Patterson (LAHC), Hector Plotquin (LACC), Gary Prostack (LAMC), Sally Raskoff (LAVC), Carlie Tronto (LAVC),

### **Minutes of 10/11/06**

The committee reviewed and approved, with minor revisions, the minutes of the SSI Steering Committee meeting held on October 11, 2006.

### **WLAC Leadership Retreat**

P. Siever informed the committee about West's recent day-long leadership retreat. Approximately 100 faculty, staff, and students participated in this event, which focused on the theme of creating a "Nurturing College." Presentations featured discussion of the "LifeMap" system, AB1417 outcome measures, student learning outcomes, and educational master planning goals. D. Beaulieu provided a presentation on the Student Success Initiative. As part of the college's effort to enhance the campus climate, the keynote of the retreat was the "4 Cs: Civility, Courage, Commitment, and Communication."

### **SSI & Professional Development Funding**

D. Beaulieu reported that during a DAS consultation with the Chancellor a recommendation had emerged that one half of the expected \$400-\$500K in professional development funds be earmarked for student success efforts at the colleges. He noted that this proposal would be discussed by the DAS before further steps are taken.

### **English/ESL Joint Council Meeting**

D. Maeck and D. Beaulieu reported on results of the first joint English/ESL council meeting that was held on November 17<sup>th</sup> at LACC. Results of the meeting were generally positive, with those present agreeing to form a "think tank" group to explore ways of improving basic English language arts instruction. This group will form over coming weeks and establish a set of activities that will result in specific recommendations for policy, curricular, and pedagogical changes aimed at improving basic English/ESL student success outcomes. It was noted that departmental representatives would be involved in this think tank group and not necessarily department chairs. During the ensuing discussion it was recommended that counseling chairs be included as well as other administrative representatives from student services.

## **LATTC Basic Skills Initiative**

M. Drummond offered the committee a more detailed overview of the basic skills initiative currently underway at LATTC. Inspired by the Irvine Foundation's "Connect Ed" approach, LATTC faculty and staff are working together to explore how to integrate or "embed" basic skills instruction across the curriculum. This notion of embedded basic skills is particularly important at Trade Tech because, while English communications and computation skills are essential in the workplace, the majority of vocational certificate students never take formal English, ESL, or mathematics courses. Within the current initiative, LATTC faculty will define essential basic skills competencies and adapt them to vocational instructional contexts. Students will be assessed periodically to demonstrate achievement.

The overall SSI effort at LATTC also currently involves goal-setting workshops led by faculty chairs that focus on three overall themes: enrollment, student success, and excellence. During these workshops, chairs trained by the Vice President of Academic Affairs review baseline data related to in course completion and retention and establish targets for both. Then, faculty review and assess departmental programs/disciplines in relation to a series of 30 possible objectives aimed at enhancing retention and completion rates. Faculty then list the 10 objectives they feel are most appropriate to their department. This list is prioritized and then the top five objectives are reviewed for appropriateness. These top five objectives will focus departmental SSI efforts over the coming year.

During these workshops, faculty also take a "Retention Quiz" that dramatizes the problems of student stop and drop outs, explore reasons why students choose to leave their college studies, and discuss how faculty can reinforce student persistence in and out of the classroom. Faculty are also given handouts that offer tips on supporting student success and on "101 Things to do in the First Three Weeks of Class." M. Drummond offered to send these materials to SSI Steering Committee members via email in coming weeks. She also noted that Pod-casts of the workshops are available at the LATTC website.

Finally, she noted that additional "STARS-like" faculty/student workshops are being conducted at LATTC on topics like how to create a syllabus that supports student success, creative alternatives to ordering expensive textbooks, and plagiarism. During the follow-up discussion, it was noted that the SSI needs to create a district-wide website for sharing best practices and new ideas for promoting student success. M. Drummond also noted that Trade is currently working on creating a matrix of vocational skill certificates that will allow students to complete multiple certificates in shorter periods of time.

## **ARCC Reports**

G. Prather reviewed preliminary drafts of the ARCC (AB1417) outcomes reports with committee members. He noted that data presented on transfers and certificates is still questionable and that colleges would have to consider how to contextualize this information for public consumption.

## **Student Success Technology Sub-Committee**

After very brief discussion, the committee agreed to form a special sub-committee to explore the use of technology to enhance student success outcomes. Such uses might include a district-wide student portal, degree audit systems, hybrid courses, and e-portfolios. It was recommended that this sub-committee address issues related to both instruction and student support. In the follow-up discussion it was also noted that it would be useful if several other district-wide groups met on a regular basis—including matriculation coordinators, transfer and TAP directors, and distance ed committee chairs.

## **Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the SSI Steering Committee would meet next on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Faculty and Staff Center at LACC.