

LACCD Student Success Initiative

Steering Committee

March 16, 2007

Minutes

Attendees: Louise Barbato (LAMC), David Beaulieu (ELAC), Bonnie Blustein (WLAC), Kathleen Burke-Kelly (LAMC), Steve Castillo (LAVC), Gary Colombo (DO), Deborah diCesare (LAVC), Marcy Drummond (LATTTC), Angela Echeverri (LAMC), Izzy Goodman (LAPC), Daryl Kinney (LACC), Alexandra Maeck (LACC), Leon Marzillier (DAS—LAVC), Joy McCaslin (LAPC), , Joyce Moore (LACC), Ed Pai (WLAC), Abbie Patterson (LAHC), Hector Plotquin (LACC), Gary Prostack (LAMC), Ayesha Randall (LATTTC), Betsy Regalado (WLAC), Paul Stansbury (WLAC), Rebecca Tillberg (LACC), Scott Weigand (LAVC), Deidre Wood (LATTTC), Maria Elena Yepes (ELAC)

Absent: Laurence Bradford (LACC), John Clerx (District), Jack Daniels (LASC), Pat Flood (LAMC), Tony Gamble (WLAC), Patrick Jefferson (LASC), Chini Johnson-Taylor (LATTTC), David Jordan (LAMC), Stanislav Levin (DO Laurie Nalepa (LAVC), Sabrina T. Odom (LASC), Genevieve Pathney-Chavez (LACC), George Prather (DO), Joe Ramirez (LAMC), La Vergne Rosow (DAS—LAVC), Sally Raskoff (LAVC), Pat Siever (WLAC), Mercy Yanez (LAHC),

Minutes of 3/16/07 SSI

The committee reviewed and approved, with minor revisions, the minutes of the SSI Steering Committee meeting held on March 16, 2007.

SSI Website

G. Colombo announced the launch of the District Institutional Effectiveness website and the webpage attached to it that is dedicated to the SSI. In addition to committee agendas and minutes, it was recommended that the site offer access to recent accountability reports and relevant articles on student success.

CPEC Report

The committee spent some time discussing the recently release CPEC report, titled “California Community College Students’ Degree and Certificates Awarded and Successful Transfers.” This report states that only about 17% of students tracked over a 5-year period earn an AA/AS or certificate and that only about 22% transfer to a 4-year institution. It also indicated that one out of five CC students is still enrolled at a CC 5 years after initial enrollment. Committee members discussed the differences between these data and the more positive outcomes documented in the ARCC/AB1417 report, and noted that such differences result from how student intentions are defined and identified. It was noted that the less positive outcomes in recent reports reflect students’ “aspirations” rather than their levels of readiness. Committee members agreed that while SSI groups had learned a great deal about how to improve student success, we have in fact made little concrete change at the campus level and that it is time we move toward active implementation of these ideas.

Basic Skills Self Assessment (BSSA) Pilot Program

The colleges reported in on the progress they are making on the BSSA pilot project.

ELAC: East reports that it held its first BSSA meeting a little over a week ago and that its BSSA committee has decided to focus its initial efforts on the first two sections of the self assessment. Preliminary discussions tended to focus more on ideal solutions and less on the current state of campus BS efforts. They are hoping to collect segments of the report on line and then summarize all contributions at a future date.

Pierce: Pierce reports that they have formed an active committee of about 20 members and that they have already met on the first segment of the report. Key Math, English, and Learning Center faculty are involved as are faculty leaders. At this point, they are concerned that the self assessment offer an “honest self evaluation” of current BS efforts, and not be created to “showcase” the college. They are making a concerted effort to focus on future goal setting.

WLAC: The BSSA taskforce at West has already met twice and reports solid buy in by key campus leaders and faculty. They have worked through section 1.1 and identified numerous issues related to the administration of BS programs. There is, for example, clearly no integrated approach to BS instruction at West, nor is there a clear sense of “mission” in relation to West’s BS efforts. Like Pierce, they plan to keep moving forward by focusing on future improvements. West plans to divide the effort between two sub-groups, which, when done will convene together to discuss overall recommendations. The West taskforce is also already beginning to discuss issues like how to cope with possible enrollment declines if basic pre-reqs are enforced.

LAVC: Valley plans to tackle the BSSA via its STARS program. A BSSA steering committee has been formed and dates for completion of all four sections of the self assessment tool have been established. Valley appears to be getting strong buy in from faculty, students, staff, and administrators. The ASO is actively involved via the STARS model.

Mission: Preliminary discussions have begun at Mission, but the college has been distracted by its recent accreditation site visit. A steering committee is forming and plans are currently being made for a series of BSSA meetings.

LACC: City has linked the BSSA pilot to its overall SSI effort. City’s BSSA steering committee holds its first meeting later today and there appears to be strong interest in the project across the campus. Faculty from all BS areas and counseling are involved, as are administrators and staff from student support services and academic affairs. They plan to create two sub-committees that will each be responsible for addressing half of the BSSA tool. City also plans to establish a website to facilitate the pilot project and will attempt to integrate its BSSA efforts with its overall college strategic plan.

LAHC: Harbor reports that it is just beginning to organize the BSSA effort.

LATTC: Trade also reports that it is in preliminary stages of the BSSA effort.

LASC: Southwest has been actively involved in assessing and restructuring its BS programs over the past year as part of its comprehensive SSI effort. These effort have led to the elimination of the college’s Developmental Communications program and the redesign of its Learning Skills offerings. This restructuring will result in the creation of an “Academic Center of Excellence” which will centralize the college’s approach to the delivery of BS instruction.

Committee members reviewed a two-page synopsis of the BSSA process that detailed its origin, goals, outcomes, and offered a model timeline for its completion. It was explained that the data involved in the self assessment would be provided centrally by G. Prather, working with the District Research Council. It was also noted that the colleges can begin the self assessment process before the data section is completed since much of the inventory deals with qualitative analysis of college's current practices in relation to the "effective practices" included in the BSSA document. Finally, it was noted that colleges would be free to organize the BSSA effort as they saw fit, and that the SSI Steering Committee would monitor college progress and serve as a clearing house for discussion of the project during the remainder of spring term.

Update on LaGuardia Workshop

The committee was updated on the draft agenda for the up-coming SSI Spring workshop featuring three presenters from LaGuardia College (NYC). The all-day event will be held at LATTC on Friday, April 13th. SSI members were urged to finalize their lists of college participants by Friday, March 26th.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the SSI Steering Committee will meet next on Wednesday, April 18th, from 3:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the District Board Hearing Room.