

LACCD Student Success Initiative

Steering Committee

May 11, 2007

Minutes

Attendees: Louise Barbato (LAMC), David Beaulieu (ELAC), Bonnie Blustein (WLAC), Kathleen Burke-Kelly (LAMC), Carmen Carrillo (LAHC), Steve Castillo (LAVC), Gary Colombo (DO), Angela Echeverri (LAMC), Pat Flood (LAMC), Chini Johnson-Taylor (LATTTC), Daryl Kinney (LACC), Alexandra Maeck (LACC), Monica Massino (LATTTC), Joy McCaslin (LAPC), , Joyce Moore (LACC), Richard Moyer (ELAC), Ed Pai (WLAC), Evelyn Portis (LAHC), Betsy Regalado (WLAC), La Vergne Rosow (DAS—LAVC), Pat Siever (WLAC), Maria Elena Yepes (ELAC)

Absent: Deborah diCesare (LAVC), Marcy Drummond (LATTTC), Izzy Goodman (LAPC), Patrick Jefferson (LASC), Leon Marzillier (DAS—LAVC), Sabrina T. Odom (LASC), Abbie Patterson (LAHC), Genevieve Patthey-Chavez (LACC), Hector Plotquin (LACC), George Prather (DO), Gary Prostack (LAMC), Ayesha Randall (LATTTC), Sally Raskoff (LAVC), Paul Stansbury (WLAC), Rebecca Tillberg (LACC), Scott Weigand (LAVC), Mercy Yanez (LAHC)

Minutes of 4/18/07 SSI

No formal minutes of the April 18, 2007 SSI Steering Committee meeting were taken.

“Train-the-Trainers” BSSA Workshop Report

J. McCaslin, D. Kinney, and L. Barbato offered the committee a summary of the content of the recent BSSA “Train-the-Trainers” workshop. The purpose of the Regional BSI meetings will be to introduce the BSSA process and to highlight the best practices contained in the literature review. All of those attending the “Train-the-Trainers” meeting agreed that while the presentations were interesting, the regional workshops as currently planned will not address the needs of the LACCD colleges due to our participation in the pilot project. It was agreed that our BSSA coordinators and SSI Steering Committee will design a more appropriate district-wide activity for the date that is scheduled for our workshop—October 12, 2007. It was also agreed to invite the other regional trainers assigned to the LACCD area to participate.

BSSA Update Reports

ELAC: East expects to complete the BSSA pilot by the end of the summer. The college is currently focusing on the first two sections of the self assessment process. Work on the third section is underway; however, little has been done to date with the 4th section.

LACC: City has created a Moodle site for its BSSA effort and has established two teams, one focusing on sections 1&2 the other on sections 3&4 of the self assessment tool. These teams are working their way through the document, posting comments on the Moodle site, and filling out the planning matrices as they go. So far, the most valuable outcome of the project has been the cross-unit/department collaboration and information sharing that it’s produced. The college plans to continue work on the BSSA over the summer and to complete the process by next September. Goals and objectives will be further refined during Fall Term.

LAHC: Harbor has chairs for all four sections of the BSSA tool. Section #4, with planning matrix, is currently complete. The BSSA committee will meet again in June and will complete the process over the summer. Drafts of the planning matrices will be distributed to the entire college for review and will be circulated to the Senate and College Planning Council for approval.

LAMC: Mission's central BSSA committee is meeting weekly. This body has delegated the four sections of the self assessment to other groups for discussion and completion. Section #4, for example, has been sent to the Council on Instruction and will be reviewed there by all of the department/division chairs. Chairs were actively engaged in the self assessment process by asking them how the general lack of basic skills impacted their disciplines. They then took the discussion back to their departments for further work. Concerns have arisen about the institutional impact of ideas in Section #1. However, on the whole, the process seems to be producing some tangible results. Some of the ideas coming forward at this point include: 1) designing a more holistic approach for counseling with a clearer emphasis on basic skills preparation, 2) more focus on basic skills in professional development activities, 3) the establishment of Learning Communities (to be implemented by Spring '08) and "Featured Classes"—classes that, while not directly paired, do share a thematic link and a research paper assignment, and 4) the establishment of a "One-College/One-Book" program. The college expects to complete the BSSA process this June.

Pierce: Pierce reports that they have finished the BSSA committee process and are now compiling notes to complete the planning matrices. These will be finished over the summer. Overall, there has been intense collaboration between the Academic Affairs, academic departments, and Student Services throughout the BSSA process at Pierce.

LASC: No report.

LATTC: Trade expects to complete the BSSA process in June. Ideas coming forward from the Trade BSSA effort at this point include plans for a special "College Reg Day" to get students off to a solid start, a free book program, and required Individual Ed Plans for all students.

LAVC: Valley continues to work on the BSSA through its STARS program steering committee. At this point, only one section of the report remains to be completed. The entire BSSA process should be finished in June.

WLAC: The BSSA taskforce at West has finished two sections of the BSSA tool, complete with planning matrices. The process has occasioned a considerable amount of controversy at West, although there is general agreement that the college lacks a clearly articulated plan for basic skills improvement and that academic and student services units will need to work together more closely in the future. Ideas emerging at this point include calls for mandatory assessment and orientation and improvements in professional/staff development. The college expects to complete this BSSA process this June.

Planning for the Regional October 12th BSSA Workshop

It was agreed that the October 12th BSSA regional workshop should be designed as a "culmination" of the BSSA effort since all of the colleges will have completed the self assessment by that time. Instead of being used to initiate the process, it was suggested that the workshop be seen as an opportunity for large numbers of faculty, administrators and staff to meet to compare the outcomes of the BSSA process and to discuss their future plans for improving basic skills outcomes across the District. It could also be used as an occasion to discuss and plan further district-level actions

and policy recommendations for improving basic skills. Finally, it was suggested that the event might also include workshops or breakouts focused on specific strategies or best practices.

CA Tomorrow Student Equity Proposal

G. Colombo informed the committee that he had been contacted by CA Tomorrow representatives about the possibility of joining in a regional effort next year to explore student equity issues in relation to student success outcomes. He will discuss this proposal in more detail and report back to the committee at its next meeting. In general, it was agreed that District colleges might be interested in such an effort if it were conducted at a relatively “advanced” level—and not if it were only to cover ground that had already been introduced during the CA Tomorrow presentation at the SSI’s Spring Workshop in 2006.

Data on English/ESL/Math Assessment

No report was made because G. Prather was unable to attend.

“Heuristic” Proposals for Improving Student Success

G. Colombo distributed a document containing 11 proposals aimed improving basic skills and student success outcomes. These proposals—which synthesize ideas that have emerged over the last two years of SSI activity and during the BSSA process—were presented solely for the “heuristic” purpose of stimulating discussion and creative thinking and are not meant for action at this time. It is hoped that they can be addressed in more detail at the next SSI Steering Committee meeting.

Next SSI Meeting

It was agreed that the SSI Steering Committee will meet next on Thursday, June 7th, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at LATTC.