

LACCD Student Success Initiative

Steering Committee

June 28, 2007

Minutes

Attendees: David Beaulieu (ELAC), Bonnie Blustein (WLAC), Kristi Blackburn (LAHC), Kathleen Burke-Kelly (LAMC), Steve Castillo (LAVC), Gary Colombo (DO), Angela Echeverri (LAMC), Deborah Harrington (LAVC), Alex Immerblum (ELAC), Deborah Kaye (LAVC), Daryl Kinney (LACC), Joy McCaslin (LAPC), Hector Plotquin (LACC), George Prather (DO), La Vergne Rosow (DAS—LAVC), Rebecca Tillberg (LACC), Scott Weigand (LAVC), Dan Walden (LASC)

Absent: Louise Barbato (LAMC), Lynne Brower (LAVC), Carmen Carrillo (LAHC), Deborah diCesare (LAVC), Marcy Drummond (LATTTC), Pat Flood (LAMC), Chini Johnson-Taylor (LATTTC), Alexandra Maeck (LACC), Monica Masino (LATTTC), Joyce Moore (LACC), Richard Moyer (ELAC), Sabrina T. Odom (LASC), Abbie Patterson (LAHC), Genevieve Patthey-Chavez (LACC), Ed Pai (WLAC), Evelyn Portis (LAHC), Ayesha Randall (LATTTC), Sally Raskoff (LAVC), Betsy Regalado (WLAC), Pat Siever (WLAC), Mercy Yanez (LAHC), Maria Elena Yepes (ELAC)

Minutes of 6/7/07 SSI

Minutes of the June 7th, 2007 Student Success meeting were reviewed and approved without correction. However, some exception was taken to the statement that “the impression at West is that low level basic skills isn’t a serious problem.”

Reports on Gabriner Interviews

Those who did phone interviews with Bob Gabriner of the RP Group indicated that their sessions had gone fairly well. Most agreed that the BSSA process has been good for their colleges and that it did lay the groundwork for on-going dialogue about how to improve basic skills instruction. It was also felt that the planning matrix offered a useful, structured approach for implementing future efforts. During the interviews, BG seemed particularly interested in finding out if faculty beyond obvious basic skills departments had participated. In terms of critiques of the process, some noted that in general it was difficult to get the BSSA committees to focus on college weaknesses rather than on strengths. The BSSA tool was criticized for being repetitive. It was also felt that the Literature Review was overwhelming for many participants and that it needs to be summarized or assigned to specific groups for review if it is to be covered completely. Small campuses found the entire process challenging to complete due to the multiple demands made on faculty and staff. Finally, some committee members felt that while the process itself was productive, it wouldn’t necessarily lead to institutional improvement because there wouldn’t be enough consensus about the need to change.

SSI/BSSA District-wide Priorities

The committee discussed and prioritized the “12 Heuristic Proposals for Improving Student Success.” These were re-grouped according to perceived priority, with the new order being as follows:

1. Basic Skills Across the Curriculum
2. Professional Development Funds
3. Teaching/Learning Centers
4. "Intro to College" GE Requirement
5. Alternative Pathways to BS Competency
6. BS Enrollment Limits
7. E-Portfolios

Data on Basic Skills

G. Prather presented a draft data report in response to the requirements of the BSSA. It was recommended that future drafts include success rate information, including data for the "Additional Recommended" section (BS students who subsequently enroll in transfer courses, success rates in these courses, earned at degree, etc.). G. Prather agreed to send revised reports to the committee once they are completed.

Restructuring SSI

Committee members spent some time reviewing the proposal for restructuring the SSI effort. It was noted that if a Transfer Sub-committee should form, it should include reps from specialized transfer programs such as Puente, PACE, etc. However, some concerns were expressed that SSI might not be able to deal productively with transfer issues at this time. Further discussion of this issue was postponed until the next SSI/BSSA meeting.

Next SSI Meeting

It was agreed that the SSI Steering Committee will meet next on Thursday, July 26th, from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the District Office.