

LACCD Student Success Initiative Steering Committee

June 9, 2006

Minutes

Attendees: David Beaulieu (ELAC), Laurence Bradford (LACC), Gary Colombo (DO), Marcy Drummond (LATTC), Angela Echeverri (LAMC), Daryl Kinney (LACC), Tony Gamble (WLAC), Leon Marzillier (DAS—LAVC), Joy McCaslin (LAPC), Susan McMurray (LAHC), Ed Pai (WLAC), Abbie Patterson (LAHC), Hector Plotquin (LACC), Gary Prostack (LAMC), La Vergne Rosow (DAS—LAVC), Aria Razfar (ELAC), Pat Siever (WLAC), Rebecca Tillberg (LACC), Carlie Tronto (LAVC), Maria Elena Yepes (ELAC)

Absent: John Clerx (District), Chini Johnson-Taylor (LATTC), David Jordan (LAMC), Stanislav Levin (DO), Audre Levy (LASC), George Prather (DO)

Minutes of 4/19/06 & 5/19/06

The committee reviewed and approved minutes of the SSI Steering Committee meetings for April and May with minor revisions.

Student Success Measures

The Committee spent a significant amount of time discussing what outcomes to use to measure student success district-wide. It was noted that measures should be chosen with an eye to potential audiences for this information. This would include state legislators, the general public, and students at feeder institutions. It was also noted that as colleges prepare “report cards” on their student success outcomes, they should be sure to highlight individual success stories as well as success outcomes data. Committee members also discussed the difficulties involved in defining transfer success. It was observed that while colleges always feel pressured to “look good,” we need to pay attention to all relevant outcomes—and particularly to those relatively gross measures that are commonly cited as indications of institutional effectiveness, such as total transfers to UC and CSU. It was also agreed that in the future, it would be interesting to measure outcomes against student preparation as indicated by API scores. The Committee agreed to adopt the following traditional “Partnership for Excellence” measures along with the following new measures as defined in AB 1417 as the district-wide standards for reporting on student success:

Partnership for Excellence Measures

- Transfers and “transfer prepared”
- Degrees and certificates awarded
- Successful course completion rates (transfer, voc ed, and basic skills)
- Basic Skills improvement rate

AB 1417 Indicators

- Student Achievement & Progress Rate for “Cohort A Students” (Cohort A=First-time students with minimum of 12 units who attempt degree/certificate/transfer/transfer threshold course within 6 years of entry. Success indicators include:

- AA/AS Degree
 - Actual Transfer
 - “Transfer Directed”=Finished transfer math and English
 - “Transfer Prepared”=60 UC/CSU units with GPA>2.0
 - And/or amin. of 30 units in CCC system in “Wage Studies”
- Persistence Rate of Cohort A, first to second year
 - Annual Successful Course Completion Rate for Voc Ed.
 - Annual Successful Course Completion Rate for Basic Skills
 - ESL Improvement rate
 - Basic Skills Improvement Rate

It was also agreed that these measures should be reported regularly for each college by various student characteristics, including age, ethnicity, gender, and educational goal.

SSI Activities

Several of the colleges reported structuring their opening day activities around the theme of student success. East, for example, plans a full day of SSI-related presentations, featuring Deborah Harrington, Myron Dembo, and UCLA professor Christine Gutierrez. Harbor is also planning to devote some portion of its opening day to student success, as will Trade and Pierce.

Future Directions

The Committee brainstormed ideas for SSI activities during coming months. The following are some of the ideas and suggestions that emerged from this discussion:

- Have each college draft a formal Student Success plan with prioritized objectives to be supported by Matriculation funds
- Set clear, benchmarked SSI goals for access, readiness, retention, and success for 2006-7
- Earmark District funding to support SSI-related staff development activities
- Establish STARS-like faculty/student professional development programs district-wide
- Include professional and staff development coordinators in the SSI effort
- Put students on all college-level SSI committees
- Do tracking studies of students in crucial course sequences and flag those who drop repeatedly
- Create two SSI subcommittees to study the English Language Arts and math “pipelines
- Enforce prerequisites
- Create a District-wide approach for identifying and reinforcing student goals (LifeMap?)
- Implement the “ActionPlanIt” degree audit system across the District
- Institute college reading programs district-wide

- Stage a District-wide “summit” on the use of technology in support of Student Success
- Stage a District-wide seminar on “Great Teaching for Student Success”
- Create a District-wide new faculty academy
- Produce a faculty student success handbook with step-by-step activities for reinforcing student goals and building essential academic skills during the first four weeks of class
- Design effective summer bridge programs that will provide students with a more coherent introduction to college
- Institute faculty and peer mentor programs
- Examine the impact of college physical environments on student success
- Survey everyone for more ideas

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the SSI Steering Committee would prioritize specific SSI goals for 2006-2007 at its next meeting, to be held on Friday, July 28th. (This meeting was subsequently postponed until Friday, August 18th, from 10-12 in Room 803 at District.)