

LACCD Student Success Initiative Steering Committee

September 8, 2006

Minutes

Attendees: David Beaulieu (ELAC), Gary Colombo (DO), Jack Daniels (LASC), Daryl Kinney (LACC), Alexandra Maeck (LACC), Leon Marzillier (DAS—LAVC), Joy McCaslin (LAPC), Susan McMurray (LAHC), Hector Plotquin (LACC), Pat Siever (WLAC), Rebecca Tillberg (LACC), Maria Elena Yepes (ELAC)

Absent: Laurence Bradford (LACC), John Clerx (District), Marcy Drummond (LATTC), Angela Echeverri (LAMC), Chini Johnson-Taylor (LATTC), David Jordan (LAMC), Tony Gamble (WLAC), Stanislav Levin (DO), Ed Pai (WLAC), Abbie Patterson (LAHC), Gary Prostack (LAMC), George Prather (DO), La Vergne Rosow (DAS—LAVC), Carlie Tronto (LAVC), Scott Weigard (LAVC)

Minutes of 8/18/06

The committee reviewed and approved, with minor revisions, the minutes of the SSI Steering Committee meeting held on July 18, 2006.

Local SSI Committee Formation

The Committee discussed local efforts to form dedicated SSI committees. Progress is uneven at this point, with East, Harbor, and Pierce having significant success while other colleges report little progress. At Harbor the Academic Affairs and Student Services “Clusters” meet in joint session once a month to address SSI issues. As part of their efforts, they are creating a “retention plan” and overseeing enrollment management for the college. At Pierce, the SSI committee overlaps with Matriculation. East continues with its Transfer and Basic Skills committees, together totaling nearly 50 members, dedicated to SSI.

Committee Goals & Priorities for 2006-7

The committee discussed the list of ten possible goals that was generated during its last meeting and narrowed this group to five primary goals:

1. Establish College SSI Committees:

Establish committees or taskforces at every college in the District dedicated to advancing student success at the college level and to the improvement of all student success outcomes. Colleges should forward the list of committee member names to G. Colombo who will then compile a District-wide roster and email list to create a network. College and Senate presidents must be solicited to support this effort. During the ensuing discussion, committee members noted that it could be difficult to spread STARS across the District because of weak state support for staff development. Lack of funding has led some colleges to cut release for coordinators, etc.

2. Create Formal SSI Plans & Goals

Ask all colleges to develop clear student success goals and action plans to guide their efforts over the next two years.

3. Reshape Professional Development around the STARS Model

Encourage all colleges to redesign their professional and staff development programs around the STARS model, which re-focuses such activities on issues related to student success and that opens them to direct student participation.

4. Basic Skills (English Language Arts/Math) Initiative

Initiate a District-wide discussion of ways to improve basic skills preparation and the math and English/ESL “pipelines.” It was agreed that the exploration of new approaches to basic skills instruction should begin in the appropriate discipline committees and that a spring conference should be planned on “Restructuring English and Math for Student Success.” It was also suggested that the committee needs to get more detailed data on student progress rates through basic skills course sequences for all colleges.

5. Weeks 1-4 “Triage” Retention Effort

Design a District-wide “triage plan” (in the form of a “Nurturing College” handbook, special faculty handouts, and a special staff development workshop series) that outlines what all faculty and staff can do to enhance students’ chances of success during the first four critical weeks of every semester.

The remaining possible goals that were not prioritized at this time included the following:

6. Work with the District Academic Senate to re-invigorate District-wide discipline committees and to focus their efforts on student success and the improvement of student learning.
7. Initiate discussions with the LAUSD, the CSUs, and the UCs to align faculty expectations and curriculum standards.
8. Build college capacity for sustaining a systematic approach to improving student success outcomes by integrating research with teaching and student services.
9. Feed the faculty so they won’t eat the students.
10. Help colleges align their efforts with future District Strategic Planning goals, by having them integrate student success measures and goals in all institutional improvement efforts—including those associated with Program Review (Unit Planning) and Strategic and Educational Master Planning.

Next Steps

It was agreed that the Committee would review the STARS and LifeMap powerpoints at its next meeting and discuss how to approach the immediate implementation of STARS district-wide.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the SSI Steering Committee would meet next on Wednesday, October 11th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in room 803 at the District Office.