MEETING NOTES

Steering Committee
Dolores Huerta Labor Institute
Location: Labor Center
Date and Time: Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 1:30pm

In Attendance:
Carl Friedlander
Gary Colombo
Joanne Waddell
John McDowell
Kenadi Le
Kent Wong
Lou Siegel
Shiguera Tsuha
Yasmin Delahoussaye

Note:
There was a scheduling mishap with the original room and we held the meeting at the Labor Center.

Labor StEP Report

Shiguera gave a report on Labor StEP and FLEX for fall 2011. DHLI reached about 350 students through StEP events this semester. Labor FLEX went well. DHLI will pursue having the StEP faculty do flex workshops about Labor StEP on Opening Day at each campus.

Kent suggested putting the information out in a PowerPoint presentation to send to other LACCD faculty so they can see some of the activities that were held and to spark their interest in replicating or borrowing ideas to do their own StEP projects. This will serve as a recruiting tool.

Internship Initiative Tabled

Shiguera informed the committee that DHLI is putting off pursuing an internship program until next year. DHLI will prioritize connecting to the unions and labor first.

Big 2012 event will be moved to Fall 2012

Shiguera informed the committee that DHLI will defer putting together a big event to Fall 2012. Given the time crunch and to be able to offer a full report, it would be better to hold a event in Fall 2012 instead of Spring 2012.

Yasmin shared that it was not clear that there was a core group that would handle this
Shigueru explained his thoughts and questions about the event and who would be the target audience of such an event.

John stated that DHLI should include the Board. They are not the aim of such an event, but they should be on board. For such an event you want students, but you want to reach the faculty too.

Yasmin suggested that DHLI periodically get on the Board agenda to update the Board. She offered to talk to the Chancellor to get on his agenda so that DHLI can give a 10-15 minute report.

The Committee suggested that a report should be done in mid or late May 2012.

Gary stated that DHLI must think carefully about what the purpose of such a meeting and event would be. If you want to reach students, the best way is through local college events, unless you have some way to bring students together from each campus. Part of the purpose of bringing in the Board is so they see the program. However, when you do something district-wide you want to bring students.

Yasmin concurred that the Board likes to hear from the students. She suggested bringing in students from the StEP projects. The Board also likes to hear from faculty.

Shigueru suggested that DHLI could ask faculty to select students who did the best in their Labor StEP projects to speak. He asked if DHLI should hold an event during a Board meeting.

Joanne responded that DHLI should not, but instead do the event on a campus. A report to the Board is something separate that DHLI has to do.

John suggested holding and event at a central campus if DHLI wants to get students from other colleges attending.

Gary stated that DHLI has to do the event separately from a Board report at a Board meeting. DHLI can try to do something at a location like Monarch Hall at Valley and get 200 faculty. DHLI would need a big draw though.

Kent stated that if DHLI has the event on a campus, the attendance draw would be from the campus.

Kenadi stated that it is hard to get faculty from different campuses on a regular weekday to show up for an event, unless we do something on a Friday or weekend.

Joanne responded that Friday mornings are good for faculty. She asked what the purpose of this event would be.

Shigueru responded to publicize DHLI and raise awareness. DHLI could do something with the StEP projects.
Kenadi shared an idea about marketing through STiEP that does not require one big event, and that could rely on the FAC.

Gary responded that DHLI could have other faculty leaders help and that DHLI could look into getting involved with the Academic Senate Summit. FLEX workshops on Opening Day are a good idea and DHLI would need to work through the Senate to get on the agenda.

Joanne stated that next year the District is allowing colleges to choose to have FLEX day on either Thursday or Friday. This would allow DHLI staff to be at more colleges.

Yasmin suggested sending an email to the Senate presidents about getting onto the Opening Day calendar.

**Union Speakers Bureau Initiative**

Shiguereu shared that DHLI is thinking of collecting a database of union speakers and then connect the speakers to faculty who might be interested in having speakers come to their classes. He asked the Committee for input on whether DHLI should offer the Speakers Bureau for vocational courses only or if it should open up the Bureau to traditional academic courses as well.

The Committee thought that making it open to all disciplines would be better.

Lou shared how he brings in union speakers through his course at the Labor Center. He stated it takes a lot of ongoing work to get union folks to come talk and show up in a class. You need to have a faculty member who wants to have labor folks come in to their classes.

Gary suggested doing a TED.com style thing with 10-minute videos of union speakers talking so faculty can show that without having to invite union speakers to come to the classroom.

Lou responded that it appears to him that DHLI is looking to catalog the LA Labor Movement. He said the project could have a historical feel to it, along with integrating it with bringing in live speakers which would be good.

Kent shared that at UCLA they offer short video resources too. He suggested that it would be useful for DHLI to have a short list of video resources for faculty and to have a list of speakers, topics and curriculum ideas. What DHLI is looking at is developing a resource for faculty. Kent shared that this would be a lot of work. You need to have a good interview process and editing process. You need to prep someone and have the right program. There is an oral history project at UCLA that is similar.

Shiguereu asked Lou and Carl if they think that this would be something that would make the unions interested in DHLI again.

Carl responded that right now DHLI is not in a good position to seek financial support from outside unions. DHLI should develop a strong program first. DHLI should not
pursue a Speakers’ Bureau if the only purpose for doing so is to get financial support from the unions.

John responded that it would still be good to build support, even if DHLI does not ask for money.

Kent suggested that DHLI first aim for 15 or 20 strong speakers on specific labor/union topics.

**DHLI's budget in 2012-13**

Shigueru asked the Committee if there is any work we need to do regarding the DHLI budget for the spring 2012.

Kenadi added that the question is whether our current district budget funding is ongoing. There was some question in the past about whether DHLI would continue to get funding or if the funding was one-time only.

Carl responded that one of the Chancellor’s conditions about ongoing district support is that he wants to see the other District unions contributing to the funding. Carl has not gotten something from Local 99 yet. Carl will go back and check on what will be the DHLI budget for next year.

Joanne said she would check with Velma about whether AFT 1521A are sending in the money for their contribution.

John and Carl will check if the $80,000 DHLI budget is ongoing and should be expected for 2012-13, or if this was a one-time deal.