



Basic Skills Initiative Committee

March 19, 2009 Minutes

MEETING TYPE:

X

Staff
Product/Project
Special

Starting Time: 2:00 p.m.

Ending Time: 3:30 p.m.

Place: SU-18

Co CHAIRS: Fergal O'Doherty and Gary Sosa

ATTENDANCE: Cynthia Anfinson, Ruth Barnaba, Lee Chen, Lynda Halttunen, Theresa Hogan Egkan, Stan Levy, Steve McDonald, Sue Norton, Fergal O'Doherty, Freddy Ramos, Gabe Sanchez, Gary Sosa, Anne Stadler, Debi Workman, Sue Zolliker

ABSENT: Mike Arguello, Michelle Barton, Berta Cuaron, Marty Furch, Calvin One Deer Gavin, Martin Japtok, Tom Medel, Linda Morrow, Mollie Smith

RECORDER: Joan Decker

Steve McDonald, Fergal O'Doherty and Gary Sosa called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Minutes for the February 19, 2009 meeting were approved, MSC, Halttunen, Workman.

Coordinators' Reports: Theresa is working on a welcome to Palomar College activities for students and families. Sherrie Titus in Student Affairs wants to partner with her on a grant for these activities. Theresa is working on a mini fair for child care, financial aid, transfer center, health services and other activities to support student success. She has emailed Morgan Petersen and Kevin Barrett about their plans for ongoing faculty mentoring support for the first-year students. She plans to hire 8 students to help with EAP registration, campus tours and intervention. Each mentor could be a contact for up to 20 FYE students. The student hired would need to take 16 hours (2 Saturdays) of peer training. Tere questioned if the BSI/HSI funds could pay for a counselor to teach a course (not supplant existing course). She said HACU and the Pew Center have a wealth of studies and demos on its website about Hispanic students.

Fergal reported that he and Gary have spent several hours recently meeting and working with the Purchasing Department to develop specifications for the equipment to include in the Escondido TLC. Bids will be opened next week. They are planning a big reception for the TLC opening in early fall. Gary said their planning time for equipping the TLC had been time well spent and next time we should include a Purchasing representative in the architectural team.

FYE/EAP Expenses: Steve discussed the BSI/HSI Workgroup's recommendation for spending \$50-60K to expand the FYE/EAP program. This would allow adding two dates, June 6 and June 13, for counseling staff to assist high school EAP students develop their education plans. MSC, Halttunen, Anfinson to pay \$51,000 for this activity with funding source to be determined.

Establish Tutoring Workgroup: Steve said a group is meeting to discuss issues such as who will tutor students at the TLC. The goal is to make the level of service for students consistent between departments, providing SI to all departments, and making sure tutors will receive same level of training and pay. Funds may be used to fund tutors that are currently paid at a lower rate, and to hire more tutors. Members are now considering the next steps. Members are Ruth Barnaba, Fariheh Towfiq, Gary Zacharias, Shayla Sivert, Fergal O'Doherty, Jane Mills, Sue Norton, and Steve McDonald. The group next meets April 6, 1 pm in NS 145. Debi Workman

and Gary Sosa recommended that tutors could also help with career and technical education classes. Student peer tutors or working graduates could serve as peer and skills coaches, and SI instructional assistants. Debi shared that she attended a contextualized learning conference last week in Los Angeles and they discussed how to get basic skills classes into career and technical education classes. The group discussed teaching workshops at the TLC on how to teach basic skills in a contextualized format. They will discuss possible future workshop topics such as those on the cultural change needed to break down barriers and on topics such as “how to read the textbook.” A workshop on critical thinking skills will be offered in the summer bridge program.

Early Alert System Workgroup: Steve explained that the Early Alert System expansion is a requirement in this year’s BSI action plan. Steve, Lynda and Don Sullins met and discussed system needs. Lynda has a list of expansion needs to determine more effective intervention and followup. Since the BSI/HSI workgroup doesn’t have adequate time, Steve recommended a separate workgroup be formed to implement the Early Alert System expansion. Stan said he would help Lynda with the project.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 16, 2009 (2:00-3:30 pm in SU-18)