

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE
BASIC SKILLS COMMITTEE
(BaSk)

January 26, 2015

Room 2411A

Minutes

In Attendance:

Brandon Byrne (ASLPC Rep), Rajinder Samra, Barbara Morrissey, Frances Hui, Heike Gecox, Kristy Woods, Jennie Graham, Don Miller, Paula Schoenecker

- 1) The committee was introduced to Dean Don Miller, who is the administrative liaison for the committee. Paula announced that this is her last semester as coordinator and that she is seeking a replacement. The person does not have to currently be on the committee, but should have some prior experience with the BSI initiative.

- 2) Kristy Woods reported on the success of math jam. We believe it was very successful considering it was our first time offering it. Kristy sent out a thank you to those involved for their support. She mentioned that there are a lot of things she would change; she had a lot of glitches, but nothing that affected everyone's overall experience. She has a few early numbers which she mentioned in the letter, but will work with Rajinder after the semester to generate and review more data. [See attached letter]

- 3) The committee asked Don to bring up the possibility of a Jam for Success to include English and/or ESL programs at the next ALSS division meeting since we don't have a representative from the English department on the committee. Some possible ideas brainstormed were a Grammar Jam and a Reading apprenticeship type jam for learning to read a textbook.

- 4) Paula initiated a discussion to review the committee's ongoing desire to support the tutorial center with tutors. The discussion was ultimately tabled until the next meeting to give Paula the opportunity to discuss needs and resources with Pauline Trummel. We also need to review how much money has been spent to date and the projection through spring semester.

This led to a report from Kristy stating that Pauline had been in contact with her regarding the "embedded tutoring" in the math x program that our committee has been supporting. It appears that the program isn't working out as planned according to Pauline, and that other programs, having missed the intent of having tutors in the math x program, were also requesting "embedded tutors" for their classes. A consensus was reached that the tutors in the math x program would no longer be referred to as embedded tutors, but instead just math x tutors.

The program will continue through this spring and Kristy and Pauline are looking at ways to make it work. Paula wanted more collaboration between funding sources so that the committee could make better decisions on what they wanted to fund vs what other groups were funding.

The topic of last year's Tutorial Center workgroup came up. Several people see this as a necessary means to address issues regarding tutorial services through collaboration and consensus. Currently the programs that provide instructional support for math and English are overseen by Academic Services; however, mainstream student instructional support is run through Student Services. Barbara felt that this is why the workgroup hit a wall. Don is interested in re-establishing this workgroup, but would want to get a firm goal in mind for its purpose. Kristy felt that the tutorial center workgroup started off positively with a goal of establishing an integrated "Student Success Center". Research was conducted by everyone on what other colleges are doing well. The group's goal should be research based. Ultimately it was expressed that without a current VP of academic services, there is no one with enough authority to head up the process of moving forward with this workgroup.

5) Paula gave a brief overview of the budget status. The funding year 2012-13 is now closed out.

The 2013-14 budget is currently being spent, but since so many items are in process, it is hard to give exact numbers. So far we have spent roughly \$2500 on smart pens for use in the tutorial center and basic skills programs, \$5000 has gone to the library to update the basic readers for the ESL program, about \$22,000 is budgeted each year for paying the coordinator, The English department was allowed to be paid for their special project from several budget years previous, \$12,000 was budgeted for math jam, but we need to get actual numbers and we also need to do so regarding money spent in the tutorial center.

In working with Natasha we believe we have spent close to \$74,000.

We have to spend the rest of that money plus the \$90,000 given this year: 2014-15. We may have anywhere from \$90-110k to spend by June, 2016.

6) Professional development has been identified as a need for the college. The committee was asked to go to their divisions to obtain ideas for which topics and types of speakers or activities people wanted. A few ideas were brought forth by the committee

- Growth mindset workshop (since the math jam workshop on this topic was well received)
- Reading apprenticeship (since there are basic skills students in all of our classes and many students could use mentoring on how to effectively read textbooks)

We can also pay for conferences that are basic skills related. Let us know if you are interested in a particular conference.

Frances wondered if there was a way to supplement faculty's pay to allow them to spend time on the things they learn at workshops. Not likely. But it is always good to check on a case by case basis depending on the need and the activity.

7) **Good of the order.** Kristy informed the group that Math 55 is going to pilot embedded counseling in a few classes. They will be short sessions about three times a semester presented by Angella VenJohn along with lab work do be completed by students to lead into these discussions. Examples include time management, growth mindset and hope to improve study efforts and test anxiety to increase retention and completion.

Paula asked Don to let us know what is going on with the English department since we are operating in a vacuum with no representative. She is curious if the data in the Basic skills data tracker that indicates a lower success rate in English 1A reflects the need for a different basic skills sequence.

On the chancellor's office website this data can be reviewed by committee members. It is on the Basic skills/ESL page under "Academic services".

Adjournment. Next meeting, February 23, 2015

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