10-3-14 Basic Skills Meeting

Present: Victor Cummings, Lauren Servais, Ann Foster, Carlos Valencia, Jim Cason, Amy Flores, Steve Lewis, Ron Balsamo, Janet Madero (student), and Geoff Navarro

Absent: Mary Kay Rudolph, Inez Barragan, Lauralyn Larsen, Li Collier, Julie Muzzatti, KC Greaney, Tara Jacobson, and Anna Brown

Minutes from 5/2/14 approved with one change of correcting to HSI Grant.

REPORTS

Grant at West Ed only for CA community colleges – first year several reading apprenticeships will be held in CA for STEM faculty and will receive one year of coaching. It will be a team of 8 faculty. Let Ann Foster know if your department would like to apply. Workshops, debriefing sessions, small group work, professional development. The BSI Committee should promote/support.

HSI Grant will start in a few weeks – money is arriving and Counseling will be doing a summer bridge for 70 students for English students. Yolanda Garcia, Ricardo Navarette, and ________ are tri-chairs.

Many of BSI projects/interests are embedded in HSI and Student Success Committees and we will need to re-prioritize goals so as not to overlap.

Shone Farm Fall Festival next Saturday – 8:00 Mud Run, 11:00 Festival.

Departmental Updates

ESL: HSI Grant and curriculum work – what revisions need to be done. ESL Hope Center Tutoring is new and happening for ESL students. HSI Grant focuses on 3 areas; devising a way to accelerate the ESL Program to help students shorten the pathway, supplemental instruction can help students be more successful, and computer assisted instruction as hybrid as part of a class can be used to accelerate students completing Engl 1A.

Counseling: College Skills – classroom presentations (2-5/week), students excited about JAM Sessions – being able to re-assess. Students score higher after doing a JAM Session. Steve will get some numbers to Geoff to pass on to students.

English: 15 JAM Sessions scheduled by end of December. Continue with CAP Project - Accelerated 307 classes, all using the same reader and similar teaching approaches. One common assignment. English Dept. doing a norming session during winter break. Developmental Committee now open to all faculty – best practices, shared assignments, and put all online so new faculty can see work.
College Skills: Math JAM – 9 more sessions this semester. Dedicated lab sessions are showing an improvement (scheduled right after class and a mandatory lab class) connected to CSKLS 371 and 372 math classes. Faculty of records goes to lab session with class and this has been a tremendous boost to students with regular, consistent outreach to students.

STEM/Math: There is a discrepancy whether a 100 class is Basic Skills or degree applicable? Six Math instructors going through tenure review process and feels the Math 151 and 155 should be basic skills classes. They are setting up a day long off campus Math Symposium to bring SRJC faculty together with Sonoma, Mendocino, Solano, and Marin County high school faculty to talk about shortening the Math pathway.

BSI Report

The annual report is due October 10, 2014 – shows how much money is spent on assessment, tutoring, learning communities, professional development, counseling (do they need funds for adjunct visits in the evenings). We will send a copy of the report to all committee members. It contains a narrative piece that Lauren has been working on and will also be sent out to all members. The summary is: CSKLS there is no change, English there is a change, and ESL doesn’t want to look at the cohort data because it doesn’t match their pathway. There didn’t seem to be much change in the two year time period in the cohort data.

Carlos said using timekeeper and keeping track of which students and which classes are being helped – Carlos has not been able to access that information through IT. Maybe we could request a report (even if we cannot access the information at this time).

Sub-Committees

Embedded counseling – what should this look like and use the money to its’ best advantages. How do we get more students into embedded counseling. Geoff, Jim, and Steve Committee recommendations:

1. Create more student access to counselor – go to where students are at, auto, safety, culinary.
2. More learning communities, more classroom visits, college skills students don’t come over to Bertolini – counselors need to go where the students are comfortable. Evening counselors are really needed. Hiring two full time CTE and one ESL Counselor (will start in January).

Tutoring – Ron, Carlos, Victor, and Kitty Committee recommendations:

1. Several formats to improve student access to tutorial. Just-in-time tutoring for specific classes (supplemental instruction) like test prep section, how to have staff and rooms available.
2. Scheduled lab time with a tutor – should be replicated in English and ESL for identified courses where it is mandatory to attend. Not all students take advantage of current offerings.

3. Should have larger system of skills workshops – all departments could set up workshops.

4. Need tutor training and instructor training to use tutors – how to help students be prepared and how to utilize services. We have a lot of part time instructors who do not encourage students to go to tutoring.

Summer bridge – what activities, what funds needed, how to advocate for funds from BSI, HSI, and SSSP. Ann, Amy Janet, and Lauren Committee recommendations:
1. Create new program and work with existing bridge programs. Offer week before summer school starts for high school students who place into 307, ____ classes. One or two weeks. Lots of faculty from different disciplines and classified staff also to work with students with many activities. Financial Aid, Art, Ropes course, engaging socially, peer ambassadors to help students. It all comes with a shirt – Amy and Janet have a lot of experience with prior colleges.

Next meeting: 11/7/14