11/2/12 BSC Minutes

Present: Lauren Servais, Ann Foster, Brad Davis, Carlos Valencia, Joel Gordon, KC Greaney, Julie Muzzatti, Connie Gozzarino, Carolyn Cole-Schweizer, and Michael Eurgubian

Guests: Vincent Hamilton, Karen Frindell-Teuscher

Absent: Victor Cummings Kris Abrahamson, Lauralyn Larsen, Li Collier, Mary Kay Rudolph, Marty Lee, Jim Cason, Geoff Navarro, Gary Allen, Monica Mendoza, and Billy Oertel

1. Minutes Review: 10/5/12 minutes approved.

2. Announcements:

Leading from the Middle Academy – for Community College “middle leaders”, deans and faculty. We should send a team and our team should consist of a researcher, a faculty member and a Dean/Director.

Diego Navarro of Cabrillo College: Effective Domain Workshop Series. Connie will send email to Debbie and she will distribute to committee.

Vince Hamilton, Karen Frindell-Teuscher, Ann Foster and Lauren Servais are a team that attended the Basic Skills Leadership Institute and Student Success. Math and English assessments provide at best a narrow picture of students’ readiness for college. Placement exams are high-stakes tests. KC said there are other pieces of information which matriculation collects that could be used for better placement. Research also suggests that the most successful college students are the ones who are resilient, which is a soft skill (habits of mind) not necessarily a skill that’s taught before attending.

Assessment alternatives: Moorpark College. Students are asked a series of questions and at the end, three courses are recommended to the student who chooses the class that is appropriate. SRJC data mine information shows similar ratios to Moorpark College’s data.

Math: Moorpark College went from self-placement to transcript placement over the last two years; completion remained the same, but success (students earning an A, B, or C) improved. The SRJC data mine numbers shows our ratios are the same or a little better (2008-2012).

The cost for Moorpark College’s placement is much lower than the tests SRJC is using, while the results are nearly the same. The committee could put this on its Long Term Goals to transition towards self-assessment instead of assessment testing.

ESL: There are very strict matriculation rules on how Credit ESL students are tested and placed in classes. Students utilize the Doyle Tutorial Center, which has been very successful.

Can the Academic Skills Lab and Tutorial Center help students brush up on skills before new students take the entry assessment tests?

English faculty like the writing sample currently being used as its assessment instrument. Departments may determine how students place into its courses, so it’s up to departments to continue current placement or explore new alternatives.

From 2009-2013, BS funding has provided nearly $100,000 for placement testing.
College Skills placement: used the APS test at one point, then Compass came into play and SRJC started using it. These tests are departmental decisions.

Chaffey College did a huge revamp of its tutoring. Chaffey refers to all learning centers on its campus as “Success Centers.” They have on-campus and off-campus success centers. Completion and retention ratios are higher for students who utilize tutoring. 27.7% of students, who are not required to attend, utilize campus learning centers, while 42.9% of students who are required to attend, do so. Further, students return to learning centers at a much higher rate if they are first required to attend.

Currently, there is no specific tutoring for CTE students. Karen had engineering students tutor applied tech students and it is working. She is also trying to create a bridge between CTE and transfer courses.

There are 12 Learning Centers on both SR and Petaluma campuses, but different names are used. This is confusing for students. Names include Writing Center, Tutorial Center, Acad. Skills Lab, Math Skills Lab, Math Lab, Learning Assist. Center, MESA, and Language Lab. A tutoring summit at SRJC could help our learning centers be more transparent to students and faculty.

Michael Eurgubian: Shared findings from his sabbatical project. He visited 80 colleges and found that 20% of colleges are planning to have or have an active “MATHJAMS” type program (instructor led). SRJC does not have a math tutorial center. At Petaluma, the Tutorial Lab is 90% math help. 25% of the colleges allow instructors to get “lab” load. SRJC is only school in CA where pre-algebra and below are not part of the Math Dept. - we separate it into College Skills Dept. The best tutoring practice is where faculty offices are right around tutorial center. Biggest use of BSI money statewide for math is supplemental instruction.

KC suggested a study group be set up to look at assessment vs. placement processes. Joel feels we should go directly to departments and show them evidence-based reports and make recommendations right away. KC felt they needed more information and research before presenting to departments. There are also other alternatives to look at before making recommendations.

Goals and projects:

1. Change the BS name to Student Success Committee.
2. Assessment for Placement Committee (KC, Lauren)
3. Tutoring Committee (Ann, Connie)

Contextualized Learning Projects Request for Proposal. BS and Cetia funds are supporting this initiative. The deadline for proposals is November 30th so the projects can be implemented in spring 2013.

Items for next meeting:
Michael: 10 minutes to continue his presentation.
Possible Committee Name change
Send out a request to join placement and tutoring work groups
Leading from the Middle
Recommendations for PDA speaker: On Course person, Derrick Smith from Learning Works or Diego Navarro from Cabrillo College.

Adjourned at 11:00
Next meeting December 7, 2012