12/7/12 BSC Minutes

Present: Lauren Servais, Victor Cummings, Li Collier, Carlos Valencia, Brad Davis, KC Greaney, Jim Cason, Lauralyn Larsen, Gary Allen, Mary Kay Rudolph, Joel Gordon, Geoff Navarro, and Michael Eurgubian

Absent: Kris Abrahamson, Ann Foster, Marty Lee, Julie Muzzatti, Connie Gozzarino, Carolyn Cole-Schweizer, Monica Mendoza, and Billy Oertel

1. Minutes Review: 11/2/12 minutes approved with two changes on page two regarding comment that SRJC is only college where Pre-algebra is not taught in Math Dept. and BSI use of money statewide for math is supplemental instruction.

2. Announcements: none

3. Budget Review: we received a preliminary allocation of $126,000 for next year. This amount may change before it is final (summer 2013). This amount is much lower than the $410,000 received 5 years ago. We spend around $140,000 each year. If funding continues to decrease, we will have to cut around $20,000 in tutoring, counseling (Welcome Center funding), IR, and/or assessment, along with cutting reassigned time for the coordination of SRJC's Learning Community Program and New Faculty Development/Teaching and Learning Institute. Mary Kay said the Chancellors office will carefully watch where we spend BSI’s limited funds; as a result, we need to be specific and deliberate with what we are trying to accomplish with BSI funds. Assessment and matriculation may need to be looked at more closely. At some point there may be a state system, which will replace our use of a writing sample. Mary Kay suggests we re-assess that writing sample now and look for placement alternatives. 7 years ago we were not using writing samples; the English Dept. found the multiple-choice questions in the placement example unacceptable. The writing sample has been much more successful. KC said all placement exams are flawed – the writing sample is a more expensive option. There are many alternative models according to KC – there might be a 3 year lead time once we decide on a new method. Li said the required assessments may be changed in the next 2-3 years. Student choice is one model that could be instituted immediately. We have offered 8-week refresher courses online in the past – MK suggested we offer a workshop or 2-week refresher courses in Math and/or English for students entering college.

4. Math Pathway best practices: Michael Eurgubian visited Math departments in CA (80 campuses) last year. The best environment (creating the happiest faculty) is achieved when teachers are near each other’s offices and tutoring. BSI is most often used for supplemental instruction. Students would attend a 2-hour workshop on a Friday (attending class and the workshops are required). Tutorial centers – very rarely is a math person heading the center. There are 20-30 schools where math full-time faculty earn part of their load in the math center. NVTP is dead – 25 years ago this was popular. The best predictor for success is motivation (not past course work). “MathJams” are popular at other colleges; these intensive math refreshers happen in the 2 weeks before college starts and the 2 weeks during break. Math departments are accelerating sections: Pre-calc with statistics, elementary with intermediate algebra.

Accelerated courses seem to be effective, but highly motivated students are the ones taking these courses. Joel thinks faculty and student connection is most important and this helps to motivate students. At the Strengthening student success conference, Chaffey discussed additional
assessments measuring HOPE – how much the student feels hope—and self-efficacy – how the student feels they affect others.

Dr. Chong has asked MK what is happening with the math students who don’t succeed and what we’re doing for those students? SRJC is in the top 10% of students who successfully transfer. Our course completion rate is significantly higher than the state.

5. Leading from the Middle: BSC decided to send a researcher, faculty and Dean to this conference. Mary Kay is President of CIO group. CIO wants to be consulted in the future before they will endorse this Institute. SRJC will not be sending a group to Leading from the Middle.

6. Name change: At previous meeting, Julie asked if it’s possible to change our name. Lauren said “basic skills” refers to a small group of students when in fact all students are basic skills students. Li wants to know what is the focus of this committee. Victor said this committee started because there was funding and SRJC wants to support basic skills students in all disciplines. KC stated that BSI money is running out. Student success is student equity; student success and BSI could be pooled. Marti Lee and Kris Abrahamson have each started new committees that are similar and are considering merging. BSI can think about merging so there is no duplication of efforts. If we choose to change the name, it would have to go through the senate and would not affect BSI funding. Victor suggested we find out what these other groups are doing and then BSC can make their decisions. We should invite Marty and Kris to BSC. Victor will handle this.

7. Placement work groups: in 2-5 years the state may change placement. How do we react to something that might happen in 3 years? KC says the research is valuable once we know what we need to do. We should have a new committee of Math, English, ESL, Chemistry, and College Skills to discuss assessment alternatives (KC and Li to head this committee). Li thinks faculty should be taking the lead on this. Implementation and support are also issues that need to be addressed by administration. So far, Gary Allen, Lauren Servais, and Victor Cummings have joined this committee. Dept Chairs should be made aware. KC will move ahead to start this work in the new year.

8. Tutorial Summit – Karen Frindell-Teuscher got together a preliminary planning group for a tutorial summit. Wanda, Victor, Cheryl Hanson and Karen met to discuss who to invite to the summit. Karen will provide a list of all departments involved. One goal is to create a comprehensive, detailed set of tutorial options on campus (instructional student support), and publicize this information, so students and faculty know what is offered and where to go. What will happen in the future to fund this tutoring? There is a plan to expand the math lab – how will this be funded? Carlos asked if there would be one website where this information could be found. Michael said SRJC does not have a math tutorial center, which may be more efficient. English and College Skills have a “supervised tutoring course”. Big Summit meeting will be held 2nd week of spring semester.

9. The committee will need to make cuts in funding. Joel says we need to know which programs are most and least effective before making these decisions. Victor said we have this data. Michael reiterated that all these committees should be combined to address student success issues as a whole.

Adjourned at 10:35
Next meeting is February 1, 2013