



**Achieving the Dream Core Team/Strategic Plan Goal Two Meeting  
October 16, 2013 3:00 pm, SC213**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:** R. Lizotte, T. Fallon, P. Dulchinos, K. Mitchell, M. Suarez-Shannon, L. Nadeau, C. Cohen  
C. McCracken, E. Gonzalez, G. Nash, E. Gonzalez, W. Heineman

**Recorder:** J. Bailey

Bill Heineman showed the group the new Achieving the Dream interventions showcase website. This tool can be used to see the work that other colleges are doing on various interventions. He encouraged everybody to familiarize themselves with the website as it may help in our own work. Also, Jim & Terri may talk about it during the November visit. <http://achievingthedream.org/interventions>

**1. Review of PRESS Grant Coach Kent Farnsworth's visit**

Bill thanked everyone who was involved with Kent's visit on Sept. 30. Kent has not sent his formal written report, but in his brief email said he was impressed with retention ambassadors and early alert. He said that this could be a national model. Bill said that the latest early alert numbers are "through the roof" and that there is definitely a need for the StarFish software to sort the data. Emily Gonzalez asked if anybody has been looking into "Financial Aid warning" issues. She said that often students disappear after receiving this warning. Bill said that Starfish could possibly help with this.

**2. Review of Agenda for ATD Coaches visit on November 6-7**

- As usual, Jim and Terri will be meeting with the 3 strategy teams, the Core Team and Tom. Meetings will be shorter than usual as they have asked to take a look at the big picture and see how much ATD is penetrating from a wider viewpoint; therefore they will be meeting with the AMP implementation committee and Strategic Plan committee as well as the AALT and Student Life and Enrollment Services managers.
- Three questions they are asking the core team:
  - 1) What do we want the student experience to look like in 5 years?
  - 2) Where do we see ourselves in terms of student success work right now ? (look at our goals)
  - 3) How do we sustain support and urgency and how do we build it into the way we do business right now? (keep staff going, get new people involved)

**3. Update on Transitions to Academic Success Team Work – Emily Gonzalez**

- The charge and goals of the subcommittee were reviewed. The goals include improving student ability to read in multiple courses, meeting once a month, holding 6 college-wide workshops,

comparing previous/current retention rates and syllabi, and conducting a follow up reading survey in Fall 2014.

- Think aloud strategy was discussed.
  - Students vocalize anything visual that comes to mind while they are reading, initially using a checklist until the process becomes natural.
  - Social dimension - a safe environment is needed for this strategy. During the first class this is established using detailed introductions to the class.
  - Personal dimension – At some point they must have liked reading. This gets students to think about why they don't like reading
  - Knowledge building – build upon what you read.
  - Cognitive – how are they using these tools to get the big picture?

Bill Heineman asked how does the team deal with the question faculty might pose “shouldn't they have learned this already?” Emily explained that once the strategy is in place, the students can move along faster. She also pointed out that they can take this strategy with them.

- Emily talked about the importance of students creating their own study guide as a way for them to process information.

#### 4. Other Business

- Magdalena and Josh shared Bridgewater surveys at the last meeting (via email before the meeting). The core team had homework -- to look at the survey and make suggestions to them whether to use the surveys “as is” or to suggest changes.
- Bill asked if there would be another round of mini-grant applications and Rick said “yes, he's had 2 people who have expressed interest”.
- **Coaches visit November 6 and 7.** If you have a problem with your allotted time slot please notify Jane Bailey ASAP as this agenda will be finalized on October 23.
- **Core Team will meet November 6 at 2:00 with the coaches.**
- **Next Core Team meeting after that is December 18.**