



**Achieving the Dream Core Team/Strategic Plan Goal Two Meeting
May 23, 2012 2-4 pm
Library Art Space**

Minutes

Attendees: Bill Heineman, Lane Glenn, Pete Dulchinos, Lynne Nadeau, Karen Mitchell, Dawna Perez, Donna Marquis, Dina Brown, Dana Hagggar, Nora Sheridan, Grace Young, Tom Fallon, Lynda Gagnon, Josh Abreu, Emily Gonzalez.

1. The Core Team's new role and potential new members

Bill Heineman began by welcoming everyone to the first combined ATD Core Team/Strategic Plan Goal Two meeting. He explained that goal two focusses on improved student learning, retention and graduation rates, which fits into some of the work that ATD is already doing, hence the idea to combine the two groups. He thanked everyone for coming and invited those that are interested to join the team to either see or email Jane Bailey.

2. Reaction to the ATD Coaches' visit and reflections

Bill stated that he and Jim's perception of the April visit was that it was successful. He asked the group for their comments.

- Grace Young said she agreed on the DegreeWorks comments about getting data. She reported that they are rolling out a new version of which she was uncertain of the details. She said that all new students and STEM program students have a plan (excluding ESL and Developmental students). It was stated that it may be hard to find a control group to measure the success of CSS. Nora said that maybe they could try to look at students who didn't have a plan vs. students who did.
- Bill suggested doing a presentation at next year's conference about how we developed CSS, particularly curriculum development. Usually the call for proposals is in September.
- Bill talked about Jim's recommendation to get more students to take the Accuplacer prep. test. Grace suggested linking it to the Thursday information sessions or building it into a step at CPAC when the students walk in. Perhaps link it to the online admissions application, which will be available July 1.

Bill said the coaches will come once next year in late November, and that those that attend the DREAM conference in the Spring will see them there.

3. Plans for Next Year

A. Ongoing work on existing initiatives: Math, Advising, FYE (CSS, Early Alert) – Bill briefed the new members of the group on the current strategy teams saying that

- The Math Team had morphed into the Math Council, and would no longer be an ATD team. He said that he officially deputized Noemi to keep an eye on student performance in Math from here on out. Linda Murphy said that she and Nancy Nickerson were planning to keep this as one of their focus points.
- The Advising Team's roots are firmly in the ground with DegreeWorks and that it will also cease as an ATD team.
- First Year Experience team (focused on College Success Seminar and Early Alert) still had work to be done so that team would stay and perhaps be assisted and refined by a new ATD grant.

C. Coaches' reaction to our ideas for Culture & Equity and Integration Teams

Bill explained the idea that he had brought up at the last meeting to develop a culture and equity team. It would focus on gaps in student performance based on background and work to close the gap that exists. He said the coaches liked this idea. Bill went on to explain that the teams are about action. Their job is to come up with strategies, try them, and measure them.

Bill asked for volunteers. Grace Young and Donna Marquis agreed to join the Culture & Equity team.

Bill mentioned that although the coaches thought the cocktail team was interesting in theory, they thought it would be difficult to implement.

D. A new idea: focus on other gateway courses and student reading skills – The coaches suggested trying to get beyond writing and math and address reading issues in PSY101, HIS101, SOC101 etc. Bill pointed out that NECC recently hosted a workshop focused on reading skills. Tom Fallon agreed, saying that reading impacts every discipline. Dawna Perez pointed out that there is a lot of expertise at the college in this area. Lane Glenn said that a few years ago we chose our three strategy teams by looking at the data. He asked "what is the data telling us?" about new teams. Pete Dulchinos asked if there is a way to link this to the high schools. Bill reported that we are doing some of this on a system by system basis, and also statewide under the PARC initiative. Bill asked Tom if he and Rick could bring some data to the next meeting for people to look at, then from there the group could make decisions about other new teams.

4. Linking our initiatives to other strategic actions being pursued around the college – Bill talked about the need to integrate our goals with other teams and also with the goals developed by each area of the college on an annual basis. He referred to the EMSS strategic

goals he had previously sent to the group. He said many of EMSS goals overlap with our goals and it would be good to join forces, college wide.

5. Updates

- A. **ATD Video premiered at inauguration: thanks to all that helped!** Bill said that this was a general version and that there are other clips that can be used elsewhere.
- B. **ATD printed promotional materials being developed by Ron Taber and will be available on the website.** Grace asked if there is a way to incorporate the 29 Who Shine? Perhaps the website would be the best place to plug that in.
- C. **ATD Annual Report submitted: thank you Rick Lizotte and everyone else that contributed!**
- D. **Progress on Reverse Transfer** – Nora Sheridan reported that a formal agreement has just been signed with Salem State where they will give us a list of our students who transferred there and did not attain their degree here. Salem would contact them and let them know the benefits of getting their associate degree. State Rep. Mike Costello was one of our first reverse transfer students, and was awarded his associate degree at this year's graduation. Nora also reported that UMass Lowell has recently agreed to do the same thing and is planning a pilot with their August graduates. She also reported they have a special information session around Mass Transfer.

6. Other Business

A few other ideas were brought up:

- Since we are already working with the high schools, maybe they just need a team from here to help.
- Maybe pilot Accuplacer prep with Early College.
- Dina Brown reported that College for a Day brought 350 students. She suggested connecting these students to the refresher to get them thinking about what they can do to be successful before they start.
- Another suggestion was the 2 week Bridge program – perhaps doing the Accuplacer prep there.

NEXT MEETING:

June 20 at 2:00 pm, SC213