



**Achieving the Dream Core Team Meeting
January 25, 2012 2-4 pm
SC213**

Minutes

- 1. Welcome/Introductions** - Bill Heineman began the meeting with introductions for the new member of the group, Lynda Gagnon. He welcomed Lynda as a representative of DCE faculty. He said that our student representative Lori Page will no longer be with us as she is working and not available during the times that we meet. He asked the group for suggestions for her replacement. A few names were brought up. Bill asked the group to forward names to him.

Bill said he would like to hear from the teams to “take stock” of each of our interventions and hear about plans for the spring.

- 2. Team Updates (accomplishments & plans)**

First Year Experience team – Clare Ostrander presented the update below:

- Learning from other FYE programs: Members from the team visited RCC & BHCC. They are using what they learned to shape program expansion.
- Planning for CSS expansion at NECC: The team is getting close to proposing an expanded “CSS101 required” cohort for fall 2012 which would include first time dual & triple developmental students, General Studies and Liberal Arts program majors. They need to work out how to get CSS to be part of the program. Bill suggested including Business Management students. Clare said they hope that CSS will take on the feel of a job orientation.
- The curriculum committee is working with Pearson Publishing to create their own custom textbook. They have been obtaining feedback throughout the college and hope to have the book ready by June.
- The curriculum committee has been working with Melba on outcomes and goals rubrics.
- This spring they will recruit faculty to teach CSS.
- Further expansion of the high school CSS offerings will continue.
- Tom Fallon reported that there were 156 completers in CSS for Fall 2011. CSS completion rate is 63%, which Tom pointed out is below the college completion average. The question was asked if this is because they are developmental students. The point was brought up that expanding this program should bring this number up.

- Janice Rogers asked if it feasible for the expansion to happen in Fall 2012. Grace said that if it is put in the program it needs to go before the AA committee. Janice asked if it could be done as a pilot. Grace said she would need to talk to Sue Shain.

Data Team – Tom Fallon presented an equity analysis. Jim & Terry had asked for a breakdown looking at different groups.

- The first slide, Course Completion shows a nice growth pattern. The following slide breaks down completion into subgroups. Tom noted that Hispanic numbers are small, that's why you see such large fluctuations.
- The next slide shows completion rates in Mathematics. Tom was asked to add Applied Technical Math numbers to this slide. Discussion followed and it is felt that these numbers will go up. Subsequent analysis by Tom (adding in the MAT115 cohort) did NOT lead to a change in the percentages, however.
- English Comp. slide shows completion numbers falling in general. The detailed slide shows growth in the number Hispanic students and Hispanic males taking the course. It was stated that the real measure will be when bigger groups of Hispanic males come through.
- The Degrees & Certificates conferred slide shows good growth.
- SI chart shows SI sections/vs. all sections. BIO, CHEM and MAT did well. Both sections of College Reading did not do well.
- CSS comparison fall-to-fall retention: CSS students are at 76% compared to non-CSS at 70%, which is a 6% difference. Tom is still trying to form a model with this data.

Tom told the group that he will be using this format to display data. He said he is thinking of showing the SI data at the conference in this way, comparing completion rates in SI vs. non-SI classes.

Advising Team – Grace Young reported the following:

- The team has revised the college's Academic Standing policy, effective fall 2012. The policy was simplified to 3 categories: Good academic standing, Academic Probation and Academic Suspension. An Academic Review board has been established for the process of appealing to return to NECC. This policy matches up more closely with Financial Aid policy and has been approved by the academic affairs committee.
- The team is working to increase completion rates and hopes to work with Graphic Design/CIS students to discuss certificate credentials they can receive en route to their Associate Degrees.
- Excellence awards received at awards convocation will now be displayed on student's transcripts.
- *Colleen Walsh reported that she and Sue Shain attended the SunGard Symposium in November. SunGard consulting has been scheduled for March and will assist the college in better utilization of DegreeWorks and more efficient scheduling of classes.*

Nora Sheridan reported that:

- Fall 2011 students were surveyed about their advising experience. Data will be analyzed and compiled this semester.
- Student success center has opened in Lawrence. Training is being developed.
- They are working with Salem State and U. Mass on reverse transfer.

Math Team – *Lynne Nadeau reported that:*

- Rebecca Rose visited 10 classrooms in Lawrence to introduce services in the Fall. This resulted in a new peer tutor who will hold tutoring sessions in Lawrence for 4 hrs/week during the Spring 2012 semester.
- The plan to create partnerships with local 4-year institutions for SI Leaders has been put on hold as they haven't needed this yet. Grace asked if we can use our students who are now at 4 year schools as SI leaders. Lynne said we are doing that when we can and that is our first priority when partnering with another school.

Linda Murphy reported that:

- The modularized self-paced Basic Math course that was implemented in the Fall 2011 was very successful. Most students finished on time and have now gone into Basic Algebra I. The strategy expanded in Spring 2012 to include Basic Algebra I and II. Tom Fallon showed concern regarding incomplete grades for students who do not finish on time – that incompletes will have negative effects on numbers – especially if the amount of students grow. Colleen Walsh said she would look into the possibility of assigning an alternate grade for cases like this in which the students are definitely going to finish the class.
- The math council is up and running with full time and adjunct members. This includes developmental math, but also crosses over into Math.

3. Other business

Rick Lizotte stated that the annual report is coming up at the end of February. He asked that the group keep giving him information as to the things they are involved in, especially the spin off groups as a result of ATD. He doesn't want to miss anything.

The next scheduled Core Team meeting on **February 22, 2:00 to 4:00, SC213.**