



**Achieving the Dream Core Team Meeting
February 22, 2012 2-4 pm
SC213**

Minutes

1. **Welcome/Introductions** - Bill Heineman began the meeting with introductions for the new student representative, Jen Sanchez. Those in attendance were Colleen Walsh, Carolyn Cohen, Rick Lizotte, Lynda Gagnon, Grace Young, Laurie Dimitrov, Nora Sheridan, Janice Rogers, Dawna Perez, Pete Dulchinos, Joanna Fortna, Lynne Nadeau, Linda Murphy.

2. **Update on Math curriculum changes: math chart** – Noemi Custodia-Lora handed out a draft of the proposed new math chart. She said that the Math department met as a group and also met individually and the result was the new math chart. She emphasized that this is a DRAFT and that the idea is to use this as a template. The new chart eliminates one level of developmental algebra on the non-STEM pathway. Another feature of the new chart is a new Math Literacy for College Students (MLCS) class for non-STEM students who test into Basic Algebra I or II. MLCS will be piloted in the fall. The next step is a meeting between Bill, Grace, Janice, Noemi, and the math faculty. Meetings with department chairs and coordinators will follow to discuss the impact of the math changes on academic programs. The new chart will force changes in most programs, as well as assessment placement and DegreeWorks and will probably take a year or two to complete. Noemi said this will be implemented with new students and that both math charts would remain in place probably for several years. Linda Murphy mentioned the modular approach to Basic Algebra I and II, which is self-paced and allows students to pick up where they left off rather than start from the beginning, or repeat sections. She reported that there are good results so far with this, and other colleges (such as Middlesex) are entirely modularized with good results.

3. **Brainstorming for potential new teams next year** – Bill said the math chart is an example of ATD spin offs, which also include the Student Success Center, Early Alert and Writing/English work -- all of which are “in the same spirit as ATD”. He said in 3 months we are no longer an ATD college as we have been for the last five years; we have reached Leader College status. The ATD funding comes to an end. This is also a symbolic break where we start doing this kind of work all over the college all the time and it isn’t labeled “ATD.” We will need to start making decisions about how things will change going forward. He talked about “sun setting” intervention teams and

perhaps taking on new initiatives. He pointed out that the work will not go away, but it will be more everyday business. He asked for feedback from the group.

- Joanna Fortna mentioned making the WRAT team more than what it is. She also suggested the possibility of modularizing English.
- Rick Lizotte mentioned developing a sequence of writing beyond Comp. – different types of writing and reading.
- Dawna Perez suggested whatever we focus on, we should highlight how it feeds into the strategic plan and institutional goals.
- Learning Communities and Integrated Learning was brought up by Joanna Fortna as readers saw a difference in students who were involved in these. What do we do with this?
- Support for DCE faculty was mentioned by Joanna - beyond what they need to do contractually, office hours, tutoring, curriculum development. They would be more connected and it would take some burden off of full time faculty.

Bill said he had a couple of ideas to share:

1. Mixing interventions – he suggested a “cocktail committee.” Some examples were mixing learning communities with other interventions. Tom Fallon had reported that when classes were packaged with college reading they were usually successful. The College Success Seminar linked with other interventions has also had promising results. He pointed out that the committee would need to look hard at the combinations and be rigorous about testing.
2. Equity team – He said that our ATD strategies haven’t been aimed at different groups (older & younger, different ethnic backgrounds, etc.). A new team focused on narrowing gaps between groups of students (and examining issues like stereotype threat, connection with faculty members of a similar background, single parents, etc.) might be worth considering.

Bill told the committee that if teams were to be added, it might be time to unplug or morph some of the existing teams. He then asked for feedback.

- Janice Rogers said she liked the integration team idea. She said she would argue to keep the FYE team but perhaps change the people. She said if FYE was continuing on as is, it might be ok but she feels that if they were scaling up CSS, they will need an ongoing committee. Bill asked if one person should be in charge (maybe an assistant dean), Janice said that a steering committee could look at what the leadership should look like.
- Grace Young said that at the Strategic Horizons trip to Michigan the idea was brought forward to create a campus where everyone can work with the student in DegreeWorks. She clarified that not everyone would be doing a plan, but that everyone collegewide should be able to look at DegreeWorks and understand what they are looking at. This would involve a different type of training than the existing faculty training. She concluded recommending that the team could probably be sunset.

- Linda Murphy said that in the math team everything is ongoing. She said the modularized piece is taking off and will be ongoing either way. Lynne Nadeau suggested morphing the math team into a new math council.
- Rick Lizotte said that SI has gone over to other areas. He asked if there should be a new team or should that be kept on the front burner of other teams.
- Bill Heineman said he liked the idea of making sure SI is connected. He suggested possibly Math & DegreeWorks sunset and FYE sunup for another year, which would allow room to try new things. He suggested getting the coaches advice when they come in April.
- Rick Lizotte said the data team is not connected enough to faculty. Bill said work needs to be done on that and that it needs to be more than Tom. Tom has 2 new employees. Data warehousing has been discussed, which is a major investment so it's uncertain when that will happen.
- Grace Young suggested a mentoring program. She said not SI, rather students who have been around for a few semesters who can help other students come along – talk to them about their classes. She pointed out that it looks good to transferring institutions.
- Dawna Perez mentioned Early Alert. She said currently they are working with small groups. She asked “how do you scale that up?”

4. Other Business

- A draft of the new CSS poster was distributed for comments. Two suggestions were made:
 1. Can we put a “Leader College” notation on the poster?
 2. Is a QR bar code a possibility (so that someone with a smart phone can listen to either a student story or a story about CSS)?
 Jane Bailey said she would bring these suggestions to Ron Taber.
- Bill reported that he, Rick, Nora and Grace are working with Ron Taber on publicity to explain ATD to the community. This will include a video, which is planned to be shown at Lane Glenn’s inauguration in April. It will also include written material that can be used in recruiting students or donors. This is still in the design stage.
- Bill said that Lane Glenn has invited the Boston Foundation to come and meet with the core team, hopefully in April when the coaches are here. The plan is to go over the CCSSE best practices document and highlight all the good work we are doing. It is unclear whether they will come in March or April. Jorge Santiago can probably come in March if they don’t.

The next scheduled Core Team meeting is **March 21, 2:00 to 4:00, SC213**.
Coaches visit is **April 4 & 5, SC213**, agenda will follow.