

Academic Affairs Leadership Team

July 7, 2016

In attendance: Bill Heineman, Dawna Perez, Mary Farrell, Sharon McDermot, Kim Burns, Mike Hearn, Grace Young, Judy Zubrow, Carolyn Knoepfler, Lori Weir, Noemi Custodia-Lora (guest), Steve Fabbrucci (guest)

Noemi presented to the group on the “communiversity” concept that the college is modelling, through which students can earn a bachelor degrees on the community college campus. There are currently 3 partnerships on the Lawrence campus, with Regis College, Lyndon State College, and the Dominican Republic.

Lyndon State finally received NEASC approval in mid-June for their programs, and Regis is hiring additional faculty for theirs.

Noemi informed the team that about 60% of the immigrants from the Dominican Republic have some college credit, and part of the challenge is around how to help them get their previous work validated. In the DR, the Liberal Arts degree is seen much more as a career path than in the US, though STEM is making advances. The programming with the Dominican Republic is essentially proceeding on three fronts:

First, NECC is working with the Ministry of Higher Education to encourage students who are currently in the DR to come to NECC, and agreements are being considered for Political Science, Business Management, Accounting, Liberal Arts, Health Professions, and possibly others.

Second, the feasibility of NECC expanding to offer a presence in the Dominican Republic is also being investigated.

Third, a faculty exchange initiative is being planned through which faculty from NECC would travel to the DR and collaborate with faculty there to work toward aligning the curricula of the specific programs. A two-day workshop onsite is being planned for mid-October. Work still needs to be completed around what the expectation is for the faculty who attend, and how will they practically apply the knowledge upon return.

Kim suggested that these efforts were ripe for grant opportunities, and Noemi confirmed that she has initiated some contact with the U. S. Embassy around this.

Bill stated that enrollment is an important factor in these initiatives, and emphasized the importance of the team members getting the information to the faculty and staff who are most likely to be involved in the work.

Noemi informed the group that another area of exploration is using the Dominican Republic as a destination for students in the international program, which would likely be a more affordable option for many than some current destinations.

Noemi will be making a presentation about the Communiversity initiatives in the fall, likely at a President's General Staff Meeting.

Steve Fabbrucci met with the AALT to review the changes in the new MCCC Collective Bargaining Agreement that was recently ratified. While officially the changes are not in effect until the contract is funded, that is likely to occur by the time the fall semester begins.

Steve progressed through the summary document that was sent to all team members prior to the meeting, and emphasized the sections of the document that he had highlighted.

Judy asked for clarification about how the MCCC would be notified about the scheduling of Late Day Classes, and Steve recommended that it be done centrally at one time. Bill confirmed that Academic Affairs would make the collection of the list and notification to MCCC a part of their processes.

Carolyn asked about how specific the "brief summary of work" section should be in the E-5, and Grace commented about professional staff who were unable to fit College Service into the workload due to scheduling, etc. General discussion around these items ensued.

Sharon asked the team to think about suggestions for next year's Board of Trustees Education Reports, and to let her know asap.