



**Achieving the Dream Core Team/Strategic Plan Goal Two Meeting
January 15, 2014 3:00 pm, SC213, Student Center Haverhill**

Minutes

Attendees: T. Favara, G. Young, M. Acevedo, R. Lizotte, D. Perez, K. Mitchell, L. Nadeau, P. Dulchinos, M. Suarez-Shannon, L. Gagnon, T. Fallon, J. Rogers, E. Gonzalez, J. Abreu, W. Heineman

Bill Heineman began the meeting saying that the coaches have encouraged us to think boldly. He then asked the group to share their best “Bold Stroke” idea:

Lynda Gagnon - Said she teaches reading and has been to an RA strategies workshop. Last year she used it across her 3 classes. She reported that the students loved it and that they felt more engaged, and that their end grades were higher than they have ever been. Her idea is to adopt a few faculty members and teach RA to them. Not everyone can go to workshops and not everyone feels comfortable implementing strategies by themselves. She said this would start small but over time the number of students affected would grow.

Magdalena Suarez-Shannon – Said she has a three pronged approach: She would like to (1) Create a discrete food bank system. (2) Reach out to multi-lingual employers and find opportunities for our bi-lingual students. (3) Recycle used text books at little or no cost to students

Lynne Nadeau – Would like to have all full time faculty rotate into the tutoring center. This would create better communication and understanding of what tutoring does.

Melba Acevedo – Would like to see individual class sections self-paced and competency-based. This would move (some) students through the semester faster and ultimately have more people graduating.

Rick Lizotte – Said Alan Hislop is trying Melba’s idea out this semester. The course is set up to complete in 15 weeks. If students finish early they can start Spanish 2. Students wouldn’t get a grade for the second class, however, until the following semester if they finished it in the first semester. Additionally, whatever big idea the group comes up with, success should be measured, And results should be clearly delineated. Answer the question: did it do what it was supposed to do?

Karen Mitchell – Suggested 100% of students take College Success Seminar and make applying for scholarships part of the curriculum as this is easy to measure.

Dawna – Suggested making the experiential experience a requirement (maybe only one). This would not be too much for students to do. We would need to track the experience. It is one of the strategic goals and has not been addressed yet.

Josh Abreu – One thing that is missing is support at the last half of the associate's degree (30-40 credits). Beyond the first year experience, student success center can be a continuum. Expansion is currently hindered by staff time. Get the 200 level faculty involved.

Janice Rogers – Thinks all courses should use RA. This would be part of new faculty orientation, and would provide ongoing prof development. Numbers are compelling. Would need prof development to develop curriculum.

Grace Young – Suggested treating the student as holistic. There were 371 suspended students this past semester. Every appeal talks about the other stuff that happens outside the classroom. The holistic piece is what prevents students from progressing. Additionally, the college needs a multicultural center.

Tina Favara – Feels strongly about first year and second year experience – developed this at Salem State. We've lost sight of all the things we do. Need to pull them all together.

Pete Dulchinos – Suggested Khan Academy videos (tutoring).

Emily Gonzalez and Lynne Nadeau said they use Khan Videos. They reported that they are a good free resource – but that faculty need to watch out for some errors before providing them to students.

Emily Gonzalez – Said she is grieving over the fact that some students need more time, some need less time. It is hard to see them struggle, or get bored. She would like to put together a class that can be individualized, would like to give students options (competency based).

Tom Fallon – Feels we need job placement. This is part of the strategic plan. Mandatory co-op or internships provides experience to help students get jobs. We need to develop a better relationship with business and industry. Speed up the program development process. This would make us more valuable to the community. Would need to market these programs.

Bill asked: what are the primary obstacles to these big ideas?

- Resources
- Space
- People want to hold on to what they do
- Old way of doing things that people are locked in to
- If we can't get students in many good ideas fall apart (Janice Rogers)

Melba said we are missing focus – if we want to go for something, we should focus and do one or two things well.

Bill asked if this group would be better off doing something different than what it has been doing? Would our time be spent better not launching more ideas but developing a more holistic approach that would better marshal our existing ideas? He said it's good to say focus, but the challenge is actually doing it. The big new idea could be to pull all our ideas together.

He asked for people to email him with further ideas.

Other Business

Next meeting February 19, 3:00 to 4:00