



**Achieving the Dream Core Team/Strategic Plan Goal Two Meeting  
September 19, 2012 2-3:30 pm, SC213**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Sue Shain, Lynda Gagnon, Joanna Fortna, Niyurka Aybar, Rick Lizotte, Dawna Perez, Gisella Nash, Dina Brown, Linda Murphy, Donna Marquis, Melba Acevedo, Karen Mitchell, Magdalena Suarez Shannon, Judith Kamber, Lane Glenn, Tom Greene, Carolyn Cohen, Pete Dulchinos, Nora Sheridan, Grace Young, Tom Fallon, Janice Rogers

**1. Conversation with Kent Farnsworth, ATD Walmart PRESS Grant Technical Assistant**

His role is to work with NECC on the Walmart PRESS Grant. Observations from his visit:

- Impressed how broadly engaged we are as an institution
- Commented on the professional dress at NECC
- Good signage
- Terrific leadership
- Fun to see the energy and vision in person
- Data is well disseminated
- Recommended NECC to apply for the Leah Meyer Austin award again
- Early Alert often doesn't work for others. Too labor intensive. Take a different approach to look at alternatives in SI and CSS. Example – if CSS is universal assign one teacher to be a student advocate (or coach) for the group of students for the first year.
- Mini grant – brightest component. Get more people involved – a natural way to get people thinking.

**2. ATD Annual Report Feedback: Questions and Discussion** – Bill Heineman said this was the best feedback we've received:

- Applauded development of leaders for key interventions & math council
- Producing effective research reports – Applauded Tom, his staff and the data team.
- Broad Engagement – We are building a spreadsheet with ATD to have a baseline and are surprised how well we are doing with that.
- Systemic Institutional Improvement – There is a lot to be proud of here.
- Use of Evidence to Improve Policies, Programs & Services – This area could be improved. IR and IT are working together. This is challenging timewise.
- Broad Engagement – The PRESS Grant will help this

- Systemic Institutional Improvement – Met on this in June, looked at the data which led to the creation of two new teams.
- Students serve on some of our teams. We are looking for a student for this team and also for our strategy teams. Get them involved – even if it’s not on a regular basis. Questions can be sent in by students as well.

**3. Early Alert Presentation (Dawna Perez, Niurka Aybar) – presentation attached.**

**4. Reports on New Teams**

**A. Culture and Equity (Judith Kamber, Magdalena Suarez-Shannon) -**

- Trying to get a clear definition of the student population they will be working with
- Thinking Team Meeting was the launch.
- Currently looking at work that has already been done by Jorge Santiago and some pilots
- In the process of recruitment. (Donna Marquis volunteered) If you have someone in mind let Judith & Magdalena know.
- Bill Heineman suggested starting small, with only a few items as it is easy to get overwhelmed.
- Donna Marquis said that communication is important – spreading the word as it evolves. Linking the two new teams was another suggestion.

**B. Transitions to Gateway Courses (Janice Rogers) –**

- Trish Schade will be leading this group. Looking for a co-leader in Biology.
- Work of 2 teams will be integrated.
- Work of the WRAT team looking at student success transition from ESL to Comp. I and one of the things that came up was that Joanna has added reading to the curriculum. (Joanna said that when instructors across curricula use similar terminology it becomes habit).
- Getting content area instructors involved is a challenge.
- Think team conversation with Biology teacher was very important.
- Bill mentioned a new Textbook Task Force – student reading habits will be looked at

**5. Other business**

- Pete Dulchinos asked if there is a common reason that students are dropped. The answer was “Financial Aid suspension.” Need to make a note of that. Nora Sheridan said you can’t change the Federal rules but should you do an SAP appeal? It’s out of our hands. Grace said the withdrawal forms will tell the story. Bill Heineman said we need to listen to Kent’s advice on Early Alert.
- Jim & Terry will visit Nov. 29 and 30. **November Core Team meeting will change from November 14 to November 29, 2:00 to 3:30, SC213.**