



Solano Community College
Academic Senate
BASIC SKILLS COMMITTEE

Minutes

Friday 11/3/17, 12:00-1:30pm, Room 135

Voting Members: Josh Scott (Basic Skills Coordinator), Coordinator), Barbara Villatoro (Math Basic Skills Coordinator), Candace Roe (DSP), Jose Cortes (ESL), and George Olgin (ASTC).

Voting Member Absent: Tracy Schneider (English Basic Skills) and Dwayne Hunt (Administration).

Advisory Members/Guests: Melissa Reeve, Cynthia Simon, Isabel Anderson, Shirley Lewis, Claudia Tenty, Pei-Lin Van't Hul, Dawn Carpenter, Heather Watson-Perez, and Shirley Lewis.

Advisory Members/Guests Absent: Rebecca LaCount, Genele Rhoads, Michael Wyly, Neil Glines, Nicholas Cittadino, Sarah McKinnon, Peter Cammish, Rischa Slade, Terri Pearson, Carlene Coury, Gale Anderson, Renee Nichole Hamlin, Robert Payawal, Claudia Tenty, Theresa Brunner, Andrew Wesley, Nick Turney, Peter Zitko.

Guests: Nick Turney, Theresa Brunner, Peter Zitko, Andrew Wesley

1. **Call to order** – Joshua Scott, Chair
2. **Comments from the public.**

Josh reported that he, Sarah and Heather presented at the ASSC Conference & their work was well received. They presented the data of our successful English Co-req offering, and Heather presented accompanying pedagogy.

Isabel: Question about PD opportunities for TA's. State-level Puente is sponsoring Isabel's Puente TA to travel to the Spring Puente conference in Southern CA. Are there ways we can sponsor PD for TA's locally?

- i. Jose mentioned that Dwayne has approved funding for TInformation campaign (recruit faculty). Many of us don't know what is needed. There is a lot of misinformation out there. What programs are offered?
 1. FLEX!!!
 2. Shadowing system—let faculty visit facilities
- ii. Training for interested faculty
- iii. More cooperation from certain disciplines (staffing)
- iv. Work on math and English placement

- v. Re-Start program for formerly incarcerated students
 - A's to participate in FlexCal when it pertains to their assignment, but it's on a case-by-case basis.
 - Isabel: How about if they are accompanying students to a conference, as with Puente? The committee agreed this should always be covered, and suggest this to Dean Hunt.
 - Several felt that TA's should also be sponsored to go to CAP conference, as it would be helpful for them to have more training in the philosophy and pedagogy.
3. **Approval of 10/20 minutes.** Melissa Reeve. { Approved with no changes }
4. **Discussion of our Prison Program.** We have invited several people involved in our prison program (including Shirley Lewis, Theresa Brunner, Andrew Wesley, Nick Turney, and Peter Zitko) to join us in a discussion of our current and future prison program. We'll cover the following:
- b. A summary/explanation of what we've been doing
 - i. Dean Lewis presented an overview of the program's history and current status (attach PPT)
 - c. What's working, what do we think we're doing well?
 - i. Enthusiastic & intrinsically motivated students
 - ii. Students want more classes
 - iii. Committed, engaged faculty, staff & effective leadership
 - iv. Prison is interested in any classes with the potential to improve the cognitive behavior of the inmates
 - d. What's not working, what has frustrated those who have committed to this program?
 - i. Lack of resources: classrooms, library resources, etc.
 - 1. Most classrooms hold only 15 students
 - ii. Logistical / Institutional inconveniences
 - 1. Instructors don't always get advance notice when their classes can't be held for whatever reasons (lockdown, flu shots, training, etc.)
 - iii. Program would benefit from more autonomy in hiring, scheduling, class max, etc.
 - 1. Deans need to be willing to allow / enable hiring processes to hire new adjunct for this program if no current faculty are interested
 - iv. Lack of information to faculty: what disciplines are needed, what are the rewards and challenges, clarity that not all "prison programs" are alike.
 - 1. Professional development, tour, mentors, job shadowing could help dispel preconceptions and get more faculty interested.
 - e. What planned next steps are in the works?
 - i. Dept. of Correction has contacted Shirley re: potential to start a new cohort within the "DeLancey St." program
 - ii. English 1 / LR10 will be offered for the first time in Spring 2018

iii. Math Placement

1. Math was offered for the first time but placing students was a problem; had to use Accuplacer, and many students seemed misplaced
 - a. They don't have HS transcripts, but they aren't allowed in the program is they don't have diploma or GED; they should be able to self-report
 - b. Maybe offer Math 112? But, Shirley reports she can't get instructors for 112, even for Vallejo Center.
- f. Are there other solutions/next steps that we need to consider? How could the basic skills committee help in this effort?
 - i. We can make recommendations to Celia, who sits on an advisory Board working to improve prisoner ed. Programs.
 - ii. Information campaign (recruit faculty). Many of us don't know what is needed. There is a lot of misinformation out there. What programs are offered?
 - iii. FLEX activity in January.
 - iv. Shadowing system—let faculty visit facilities
 - v. Training for interested faculty
 - vi. More cooperation from certain disciplines (staffing)
 - vii. Work on math and English placement
 - viii. Re-Start program for formerly incarcerated students

5. **Adjourn.**