

Proposal: Merge the BSI committee and the SESC

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Over the past several months, I have had multiple conversations with Dean Hunt and Senate President Wyly (among others) regarding the most effective structure for our committee, and in all cases I have received excellent feedback and advice. We have also discussed this at some length in our BSI meetings, most extensively during our meeting on May 12th. I then sent the below proposal. Finally, on August 31st, I met with the Senate Exec Council to discuss this proposal, where we agreed that a merged SESC/BSI committee made sense, that this should be a joint committee, and that it should be co-chaired (administrator + BSI coordinator, at least for the first year). We still need to discuss the responsibilities of the co-chairs, as well as the function of the current BSI committee in this new iteration. One proposal would be to rename the BSI committee the Equity, Access, and Support (EAS) committee, which would serve as a task force of the SESC and a subcommittee of the Academic Senate. For your reference, below are the two preceding proposals.

May 2017 Proposal

Merge our committee with the new Student Equity and Success Council (SESC) which has been proposed and supported by the Academic Senate and SCC administration. The SESC would include membership from faculty (appointed by Senate) an administrator (currently Dean Hunt) and CESEA/staff. One of the big “aha” moments during the implementation of the Transformation Grant over the past year was the extent to which the wellbeing of our students depends on “the village”—we need to tear down the silos and work together (faculty, staff, administrators) to create equity, increase access and inclusion, and do everything we can to support student success. This new committee/council conforms to the chancellor’s office vision as well, as we have been tasked with integrating plans and “braiding” funding streams; clearly, in this new world, a stand-alone Basic Skills (BSI) Committee no longer seems the best path. One frustration voiced in our last meeting was that good ideas are discussed in Basic Skills, but action and follow-through remain elusive. This new committee’s structure would minimize that risk—since representatives from SSSP, Equity, Transformation, and BSI would be members of our new committee, the integrated plan would be informed by the committee, and the larger SCC community could participate on this committee to ensure their voice and perspective are heard. Dean Hunt proposes a structure where the large council meets once or twice a month (where everyone interested in this work would attend), but then on the alternating Fridays various task forces and subcommittees would work to institute the plans and processes which come out of the larger meetings. This would give us real opportunity to create the follow-through we have been seeking. Finally, the SESC should have representation on Shared Governance Council—this could either be the faculty coordinator/chair or another faculty member appointed by the Senate.

This committee would be co-chaired, with a faculty chair/coordinator and an administrator. My term ends in May 2018, so one proposal would be that the basic skills coordinator would be faculty chair and Dean Hunt would be the administrative chair. In this scenario I could co-chair during the creation of the committee (its first year), but then we could hire a faculty coordinator/chair to begin in Fall 2018 (a position for which any faculty member could apply). The Senate would appoint faculty representatives and we would identify a process for

staff to be appointed to the committee as well (representation from Assessment, Institutional Research, OAR, etc. seem crucial).

This new committee's structure would need to be approved by the Faculty Senate and the Board, a process that we hope to be concluded by January. And of course, this is just a proposal; we can discuss this more in the fall, and I plan to bring this proposal to the Academic Senate for their feedback and advice.

November 2015 Proposal

The Safety Net Committee (again a better name may be welcome, but I like a name with a clear mission and no acronyms) would represent various groups on the campus, but its purpose would not be primarily information sharing. Instead, this committee would be tasked with providing a safety net for our students, ensuring our "general population" students are provided with the needed support as they need it, that the net is strong and has no holes. This committee would oversee and support the ASC, FYE, UMOJA, dual enrollment, adult school integration, high school outreach, Puente, summer bridge, tutoring, and various other learning communities and support systems. The committee would look at the big picture, and as we identify problems (low persistence rates, low graduation rates, low transfer rates, etc.) we would look at our various programs and discuss how to scale up or integrate certain services so that we could serve and support the general population student.

This committee would need to be made up of administrators, faculty, and staff, and it would need access to a specific funds, including equity, SSSP, BSI, TRIO, and HSI (Hispanic Serving Institution, assuming we can get this in the future). Without money and representation by faculty, staff and administrators, this committee would not be able to meet its goal and is frankly not worth supporting.

This committee would need a coordinator with an office and staff to implement the action items voted upon by the committee, including scaling up of resources and programs. I would like to see this coordinator serve as Learning Communities coordinator as well so that he/she would have the time and resources to coordinate classes and certain staff and volunteer positions (supplemental instructors, mentors, etc.)