



July 2, 2012

Core Team Meeting

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Austin; Dr. Mike Bellah; Diane Brice (Data Team Member); Dr. Tamara Clunis; Sharon Doggett; Melodie Graves, Ellen Green; Dr. Lana Jackson; Kara Larkan-Skinner; Patsy Lemaster; Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart; Dr. Paul Matney; Danita McAnally; Charlotte Rhodes; Mark Rowh; April Sessler; Jeanetta Smiley; Renee Vincent; Dr. Kathy Wetzell

Recorder: Joy Brenneman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lee Colaw; Pam George; Tony Thomas

AtD IMPLEMENTATION REPORT UPDATE (Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart)

- We have turned in our final narrative with information provided by the taskforces
 - Received commendation from coaches who have shared it as example with other schools
- Several have just returned from the AVID conference
 - Learned in conversations with other schools that we are fortunate No Excuses/AtD and student success initiatives are part of our institutional priority with structure and budget
- Much progress has been made in our first year
 - Board is funding a student success contingency fund and is requesting update reports every two months
- Amarillo Area Foundation received a TG Foundation grant in the amount of \$297,000 to fund a student success coach for three years at AC. This grant also provides some computer support. There is a TK grant in process that will fund another coach for three years if received.
- No Excuses partnerships are benefitting the community
- The Gates Foundation/PPS has just returned its 2013-14 funding priorities. Funding will be available in six states including Texas.
 - Charlotte Rhodes shared some of the grant opportunities available and being pursued because of our relationship with the Gates Foundation

INTERVENTION TASK FORCE STRUCTURE (Dr. Lowery-Hart & Bob Austin)

TUTORING EXPANSION (update from April Sessler)

- Gathered "State of the Union" reports from Tutoring Department (peer, professional, and online tutoring), STEM and Health Sciences grant managers, Math Outreach Center, Writers Corner, Science Study Center, and DisAbility Services.
- Literature Survey for best practices – research librarians provided articles and research on best practice and information on self – studies done by other institutions.

- Next steps
 - All stakeholders will complete a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis using a template that will include areas that should be addressed – assessment, staffing, resources, training, data collection, space, student satisfaction, outputs, outcomes, etc. – by August 20.
- Questions
 - Is student input/survey data being used?
 - Could a question be added to the student evaluation to ask students if they are receiving the tutoring help they need or if they are even aware of what's available? (Kara Larkan-Skinner stated that this data is available through the CCSSE survey)

POVERTY, COURSE REDESIGN, FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR, DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION, TUTORING

- Appointments will be scheduled with all taskforce chairs to meet with Bob, Paul, and Russell to begin implementation, now that planning has taken place
 - Question – what do the taskforces do with recommendations they come up with? Time to begin implementation; appropriate areas will begin to implement into budgets and personnel

CORE TEAM PURPOSE AND MEETING SCHEDULE (Dr. Paul Matney & Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart)

- Team has been meeting monthly for a year – core team thoughts on purpose of team
 - Vehicle for communication
 - Advocacy for the purpose and mission
 - Spreading the purpose to campus community
 - Review data collected and its relationship to strategies
 - Review assessment data
 - Represent constituencies and report back
 - Decision makers
 - Integration into campus culture
- General Assembly and first week activities
 - Informational, inspirational workshops, etc. will be planned
 - Coaches/Champions to meet that week
- Meet once a month?
 - Yes, remind us of what we are about
 - First Monday of month 1:00 – 2:00 works well
 - Consider nominating student workers, including non-traditional students, who work in offices of committee members

LIST AS AN AGENDA ITEM FOR NEXT MEETING

POLICY AUDIT (Bob Austin)

- Policy Audit results were distributed to the team
 - A small taskforce used a template example from AtD for our policy audit; made assignments; and sent questions to those people identified.
- Identified major policies that effect students
- A process to make results public and interactive is ongoing (Ellen)
- Next step is to identify policies that are barriers to students (review policies through the new student success lens)
- Historically service offices were focused on outputs rather than benefit to students – need to

move away from that model and speak the language of our students

- Over time policies should reflect practice
- Core Team can share this information and provide input

OTHER DISCUSSION

- College culture can get set in stone - we are working on change
 - Have we branded for our group what our No Excuses priorities are; are people getting it?
 - Not reflected in mission statement; vision statement not included in the mission statement
 - We are beginning to have specific examples of where No Excuses filters have been implemented/used by specific people or groups
 - Need to showcase these examples:
 - Student success contingency fund
 - Career Center
 - Social Services Coordinator
 - End of late registration
 - Ellen discussed marketing tools for General Assembly – buttons that say “Ask Me”, “ I Am the Right Person”
 - How widespread is the general understanding of No Excuses/Achieving the Dream?
 - Core team needs to articulate it to others
 - How do we change our own habits so that we are doing things differently to help students?
- Danita provided a brief SACS update
- Charlotte noted that the Gates Foundation believes Texas leads the nation in curriculum alignment and AC is a part of that
- AC has partnered with Lone Star College on a grant that focuses on reverse transfer for college completion

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 1, 2012; 1:00 – 2:00 pm; Library 113