

Core Team Meeting

January 16, 2015

Lynn Library 212

9:00 a.m.

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Austin, Janet Barton, Melanie Castro, Megan Eikner, Janine Goode, Mark Hanna, Olga Kleffman, Penny Massey, Danita McAnally, April Sessler, and Reem Witherspoon

Others present:

Student Representative: Andrew Alexander

Recorder: Carolyn Leslie

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carol Bevel, Susan Burks, Dr. Tamara Clunis, Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, Jerry Moller, Jason Norman, Kelly Prater, Heather Voran, Dr. Kathryn Wetzel, and Student Representative: Seth Brogdon

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – (Bob Austin)

- Bob Austin asked for approval of the minutes from the November 21, 2014 No Excuses Core Team meeting. April Sessler made a motion to approve the minutes and Penney Massey seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by majority vote.

CALL FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND ACTION ITEMS - (Bob Austin)

- There were no additional agenda items or action items brought before the committee.

PROMISING PRACTICES

- **Greeter Program Update – (Bob Austin)**
 - An update was given on the greeter program discussed in the November No Excuses meeting. Several committee members made comments as to their experience with the greeter program which occurred the week before classes began, and the first week of classes in January. Students made positive comments on being personally shown to their destinations. Having maps for the students was a big help and comments were made that it was especially helpful to have greeters in the CUB area directing students to the bookstore. Megan Eikner gave her business card to students she helped, and asked them to let her know if they got registered. The students seemed to appreciate this.
 - A cart, set up in student services, was continually manned and proved to be a hot spot for students. They found this very helpful and gave positive feedback.
 - There was a discussion about the difficulty in helping some of the ESL students because of the language barrier. Many GED students were also on campus during the time of the greeter program. Those who participated in the program said it would be helpful to know where the ESL and GED orientations and classes were being held.
 - Comments were also made as to the need for signage on campus and updating the digital signage located in the new Badger Den.
 - Bob Austin stated that efforts are being made to help students navigate the campus more effectively. The cabinet received a proposal from a Dallas based company concerning wayfinding ideas for Amarillo College. The company identified areas of needed improvement. The Dallas Company may also work with a local Amarillo company and Bruce Cotgreave to make the changes on campus.

- Ellucian made some changes to make the GO app more compatible with mobile devices. Electronic ID badges are also beginning to be introduced and eventually will be used to purchase books in the bookstore and to take attendance in the classroom. This would be helpful in gathering data as to the characteristics of a successful student, and reasons why students leave school.
- **Transition Texas Grant – (April Sessler)**
 - Amarillo College received a Transition Texas grant that allows \$50,000.00 for student help. Employing students on campus helps assure student success while they are in college. The First Year Seminar tutoring and advising center will provide training for the First Year Experience student tutors. Students who have difficulty navigating technology to post assignments tend to give up on their classes quickly. Student help will be in the classroom and advising center to help students register for classes and learn how to navigate the technology in order to do class assignments. When advisors finish talking with a student, they will hand the student over to a peer mentor who will help complete the procedure for registering. The peer mentor will be able to talk with the student and find out what other activities they may be interested in and help put the new student in contact with people who can give them more information. Twelve students have been hired at this time but there are funds to hire more. This is a one year grant which goes through August so it will provide student help through fall registration.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Mentoring Program Update – (April Sessler)**
 - The mentoring program has been a learning experience for the mentors and students. Many of the students participating have a GPA of 3.0 or above. This program has also experienced a student retention rate of 70% or higher. The champions are currently contacting the students.
 - One of the goals of the program is to focus on the ACE students but more mentors are needed. Bob Austin recommended that the program be evaluated to identify what is working and what changes need to be made in order to improve the program. Employees of the college need to know how important this program is to student success and how more individuals can participate.

ACTION ITEMS

- February 27th was set as a new meeting date from February 20th for the No Excuses Committee, due to several committee members traveling to Baltimore for the Achieving the Dream conference.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 27th at 9:00 a.m. in Lynn Library, room 207.

Recorder: Carolyn Leslie Carolyn Leslie