

## No Excuses 2020 Team Meeting

April 22, 2016  
Dutton Hall, 103  
9:00 a.m.

### Minutes

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Austin – Chair, Janet Barton, Carol Bevel, Claudie Biggers, Diane Brice, Dr. Tamara Clunis, Emily Gilbert, Janine Goode, Olga Kleffman, Penny Massey, Kristin McDonald-Willey, Kelly Prater, Steve Smith, Karen Taylor, Dr. Deborah Vess

**Others Present:** Recorder: Carolyn Leslie

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Edythe Carter, Cara Crowley, Nancy Forrest, Lyndy Forrester, Ellen Green, Alan Kee, Cindy Lanham, Russell Lowery-Hart, Jarrod Madden, Jason Norman, Mark Rowh, Reem Witherspoon

**Student Representative:** Abraham Tenorio

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES - (Bob Austin)

- Bob Austin asked for approval of the minutes from the February 26, 2016 No Excuses Core Team meeting. Karen Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes. Olga Kleffman, and Diane Brice seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by majority vote.
- Bob Austin reminded committee members about the representation of the committee, and how members need to get the word out on issues that are affecting the college.

#### GUIDED PATHWAYS AND BLOCK SCHEDULES - (Dr. Vess)

- Dr. Vess gave a presentation on the definition and function of guided pathways, and blocked scheduling.
  - Block scheduling is an effort to develop a complete schedule which the student signs up for at one time. The student chooses whether they prefer to take classes in the morning, afternoon or evening. Courses are taken within a certain time frame.
  - Block scheduling has helped students who are in need of taking developmental education classes. The developmental education student who takes a credit bearing course coupled with remediation will have the most success with getting to completion. Seventy-five percent of the developmental education students were enrolled in credit bearing courses with remediation. The initial effort with the 40 credit bearing courses was amazing. Fast track remediation was given in Math and English courses.
  - Guided Pathways ties all of the initiatives together. This helps with completion because everything the student takes applies to their degree path. Guided Pathways creates structure so the student can decide what path to take without losing credits.
  - Guided Pathways also helps students complete and work toward stackable credentials. Completion of certificates can lead to the completion of an Associate Degree.
  - Guided Pathways also includes registration and enrollment with the advisor and students. The advisor sits down with the student at the beginning and registers the student for every single class the student will take from start to finish. Further meetings with the advisor would be to confirm if this is the path the student wishes to continue.

#### DISCUSSION ON ACTIONS TOWARD STUDENT SUCCESS - (Committee Members)

- Fall registration begins on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Most of the eight week courses are in block schedules and guided pathway projects. The success of these projects can be determined in a year.

- There was a discussion as to the type of program most of AC's students are enrolling in. Most students attend Amarillo College for a work credential. Shorter programs and year round classes can result in a higher completion rate.
- The mentoring program was also discussed as a way to help students know how to be successful. Dr. Lowery-Hart has challenged college employees to have a working knowledge as to what goes on across the college in order to be able to help, and mentor students.
- Dr. Vess presented the idea of year round courses for technical education with the last part of the student's curriculum being in a job as an intern. This would be good for the employer as well as the student. Amarillo College needs to make more strategic use of summer classes beginning in 2017.
- Criminal Justice had an increase of 30% more students when focusing on a Level I certificate. The student has a credential they can use immediately and then move on to working on a Level 2 certificate if they desire. Computer Networking is also working on this concept.
- The Adult Education department has been calling former students to let them know of the eight week classes. Evening classes work better for them. The eight week classes work well for the adult students because they are not having to juggle as many classes and they can focus on two classes at a time.
- College Relations is here to support the college workforce. They want to help departments in any way they can, and would like feedback as to the message that needs to go out to the students.

#### **DISCUSSION ON FINALS SCHEDULE – (Dr. Vess)**

- There was a discussion as to the overlapping of final exams between the eight week classes and sixteen week classes. The conflict will occur due to the 2 hour time limit to complete the sixteen week final exam. Dr. Vess requested specific details as to the conflicts. She will have a meeting with Diane Brice and others as to how to work this out.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

- May 27, 2016, Dutton Hall, Room 103, 9:00 a.m.

#### **NOTE**

- The meetings scheduled for May 27, 2016, and June 24, 2016 were canceled.

**Recorder:** Carolyn Leslie *Carolyn Leslie*