

Minutes from Student Equity Committee
Monday, May 24, 2005 Room 704 C 2:00 p.m.

Members Present: Adela Lopez, Charles Helms

Members Absent: Flor Aguilera, Carolyn Facer, Karyn Nguyen, Doug Eisner, Rolando Sanabria

Staff Present: Victoria Lugo, Eva Hedger, Cindy Vyskocil

Committee members discussed the role and structure of the Student Equity Committee. It was clear from previous discussions that the Faculty Senate wanted the committee to be faculty-driven. Given the importance of this committee, it was suggested that Rolando Sanabria serve as committee chair. Victoria will follow up with Rolando to inform him that he has been recommended to serve as chair.

Committee member discussed representation on the committee. It was noted that there is currently no African-American representation on the Student Equity Committee (SEC). The committee also does not have an adaptive services representative. It was suggested that the Chair make a request to faculty senate to appoint an adaptive services representative as well as an African-American representative to the committee, possibly Milton Randle or Queen Peterson.

Committee members discussed their interest in the Committee. Charles commented that he is interested in participating on the committee because he has been involved in similar programs and is interested in helping students. Victoria stated that she is interested in the committee because many of the data elements covered by the Student Equity Plan, such as course completion, retention, transfer, etc. are also required for Title V.

Victoria shared the following comments from committee member Carolyn Facer:

Victoria, I did find a couple things that I thought might need to be changed in the plan.

1) There are a lot of statistics, but I could not find mentioned anywhere for which semesters the figures that are given were compiled. I know it says the report is for 2004, but was the data from the 2003-2004 school year, or a single semester? Spring 2004, then fall 2004. It seems to me that must be clarified.

2) Another very important issue I have with the report is that there is a definition of retention, but no definition of success, but the tables don't mention retention, but success. (p.6) I asked Ken if that meant that the students had been successfully retained in the courses, or that the students had successfully (ie, with C or better) completed the classes. He said that meant the later, but there is nothing in the report to indicate that. I think there has to be a definition of both what we mean by retention and what we mean by success so when we see those words in a table, we know exactly what is meant. The numbers I saw for Math did not look like success numbers, even though they were listed under success. They look more like retention numbers I've seen. Somehow the report needs to clarify that or it is meaningless bunch of words.

3) I could not find a definition of DSPS. I know that it means disabled, but I think that needs to be spelled out for people reading the report that may not know exactly what is meant by those letters.

If I think of anything else, I'll let you know. Can't make the meeting so will look forward to hearing what was discussed. Carolyn Facer

The committee member discussed the comments from Carolyn. It is clear that the definitions in the SEP need to be defined, as well as timelines for completion. The committee also needs a mission statement. Is our mission simply to implement the recommendations in the plan? Will the data be updated every year? The current plan uses statistics from Fall 2003. The data should be updated to reflect Fall, 2004. Victoria needs to get the updated statistics from Ken.

Cindy reported that the President had just granted \$1,200 to develop an African-American student orientation. A Latino student orientation is also being planned. It was suggested that perhaps an underrepresented student orientation could be offered in the spring so that the college does not give the impression that the African-American and Latino communities are not collaborating. Victoria and Cindy volunteered to meet with incoming senate President Joumana McGowan to garner support for the SEC. They will try to get a student equity committee presentation on the senate agenda in early fall semester. They will also set up a meeting with President Kathleen Hodge to try and get diversity issues a line item in the budget. We may be able to receive some staff development funding for instructor training in equity and diversity. The committee can also submit a proposal for funding through the Dynamic Fund.

It was suggested that the committee members ask Ken for data indicating the ethnicity of students on academic probation as well as students who have made insufficient progress. Perhaps we can establish a mandatory orientation course for these students and/or track and recommend strategies for term to term persistence. It would also be good to find out from Ken if any of our ESL students are professionals in their field from another country. We may not be offering appropriate course for these types of individuals. Funding is needed for at least a year of good staff development activities on diversity. Student Learning Outcomes should also be based in diversity.

The next meeting has been scheduled for Flex week, from 12:00 to 1:00. It will be a working lunch meeting. Victoria will get back to committee members with the date and location.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.