

Community College *of* Philadelphia

The Path to Possibilities™

Achieving the Dream Core Team Meeting
October 14, 2008
M2-34, 8:00 a.m.

Minutes

Present: Jon Brown, Steve Curtis, Linda Fellag, Judy Gay, Sallie Glickman, Jane Grosset, Sam Hirsch, Ronald Jackson, Dan Jacobson, Pat Scoles, Susan Tobia, Paula White, Jermaine Williams

Guests: Tom Smith, Bill Wenrich, Margaret Wojcicka-Hitczenko

Presiding: Sam Hirsch, Judy Gay

Minutes: The minutes of April 25, 2008 were approved.

Updates

1. Early Alert - Jermaine Williams reviewed the plan for Early Alert and described what has happened to date. On September 29th, 2848 letters were sent to students compared to 2100 letters about unsatisfactory attendance last fall. Linda Fellag mentioned that responses from faculty have been positive so far. Dan Jacobson said he has not heard from faculty but he noted that students are coming in with the letters they received. Paula suggested that there should be a survey of faculty about changes in student behavior. Sam Hirsch said that in the first phase they tried to personalize the letters (e.g., for regional centers, distance education classes). For the next phase there are intentional interventions with certain categories of students. In the spring there will be workshops by counselors and the learning lab faculty that are timed to coincide with the letters. Tom Smith asked whether there was any anecdotal information about the student response. Jermaine reported that a handful of students had contacted him to find out about what actions they needed to take. Sam Hirsch added that some mothers of students had contacted him. Steve Curtis asked about tracking the students. Jon Brown said he will be looking to see if there is an increase in counseling visits. It is possible to track visits to the Learning Lab electronically. Linda Fellag said faculty should be encouraged to mention the early alert system on their syllabi and it should be on My CCP.

2. Student Orientation – Sam reminded the Core Team that they had a preview of the online orientation last April. He said that Student Affairs is now adding the “bells and whistles.” The in person orientations were revamped so that they occur in smaller units. There is more peer-to-peer orientation. Susan Tobia mentioned that there is also more faculty involvement.
3. Math Pilot Project – Dan Jacobson reminded the Core Team that the Math Pilot Project started before the College’s participation in Achieving the Dream. Dan reviewed the basics of the project. He mentioned that there is no floor for Math 016. There is no correlation of the scores on the threshold test with performance. Dan also said that there is much variability in passes. Basically the data showed that students in the pilot sections did not get better grades or have better retention than students in the standard sections. Students in the pilot sections did do better on a test of basic arithmetic skills but this was not associated with grades. The Core Team discussed the disconnects in the data.
4. Professional Development – Judy Gay said that there has been an increased effort to provide professional development for part time faculty. Judy reported briefly on a workshop that was held for part time faculty teaching developmental math. Linda Fellag reported on a one day conference the English Department hosted for part time faculty.

Noel Levitz Outcomes

Sam Hirsch reminded the Core Team that the College is alternating administration of Noel Levitz and the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). Jane reviewed the Noel Levitz student data. Among the findings she highlighted were: Students at the NWRC were the most satisfied; new students were more satisfied than continuing students; African American males were the most satisfied. There was a discussion about how to use the Noel Levitz data. Sam suggested that Core Team members email him with comments or questions about the data.

The meeting was adjourned.