

Community College *of* Philadelphia

The Path to Possibilities™

Achieving the Dream Core Team Meeting
December 4, 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

Presiding: Sam Hirsch, Judy Gay

Minutes: The minutes of October 14, 2008 were approved as corrected.

Review of Assessment Plans

Jane Grosset reviewed the assessment plans coordinated with Institutional Research (IR) that are part of the *Achieving the Dream* initiative.

Jane said that in the first year, she and the Data Team made a number of key decisions and did a great deal of research. Examples of efforts from the first year include identifying appropriate summative information and participating in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). In year two, the focus shifted to fleshing out details for the implementation and to establishing benchmarks and baselines. In year three, implementation is underway. The focus is on building formative information to help with decision-making.

Jane then reviewed the assessment plans for the Student Orientation, Early Alert, and Professional Development strategies. The Math Initiative was not included because they developed their own assessment plans.

Susan Tobia said that there have been some adjustments to the professional development plans, including gathering data on initiatives like the use of the Scenarios training. Linda Fellag reported that the feedback on the English Department workshops has been very positive. The department has an exit portfolio pilot project.

Data Team

Judy Gay said that the unfolding of the assessment strategy at the College has resulted in the initial charge to the Data Team being met. As a consequence, the Data Team has not met since the first year. After discussing this situation with Jane Grosset, she and Sam Hirsch decided that the next phase of our Achieving the Dream initiative needs to get the assessment work closer to a greater number of faculty. Judy Gay and Sam Hirsch believe the College department heads should be asked to act as a de facto Data Team. Members of the Core Team responded positively to this step. Tom Smith added that such a decision seems as though it will advance our efforts and is consistent with the Achieving the Dream focus on reflection and re-thinking approaches as the initiative moves forward.

Judy Gay will discuss the idea at the next meeting of the Department Heads.

Math Initiative

Judy Gay stated that she believes the Math Initiative should not continue as part of the Achieving the Dream strategies. Math is critical to the College's efforts, but she believes we need to rethink our approach to increasing student success.

There was a great deal of discussion about this direction, including the basis for the decision. The consensus of those participating in the discussion is that math needs to be part of the Achieving the Dream initiative but we may need a different approach. We need to make use of some of the interesting outcomes that came from the current Math Initiative. Some of the continuing topics in any new effort should be the fact that there is no floor for testing into Math 016 and the idea of having a common exam.

Tom Smith stated that the problems associated with improving student success in math are identical across different institutions.

Judy Gay said she will make the Core Team aware of any decisions about a new approach to improving success in Math.

Spring Semester

Sam Hirsch reminded the Core Team that we will be administering CCSSE during the Spring 2009 semester.

The dates for the spring Core Team meetings are February 12 and April 27, 2009.

Some new members will be invited to join the Core Team.

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

1700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130-3991·215-751-8351· (Fax) 215-496-6188·<http://www.ccp.edu>