Committee Meeting Report

Committee | Learning Skills Viability Committee | Date | 10/01/2013

Participants
Daniel Marlos, Arax Cohen, John Freitas, Kalynda Webber, Dana Cohen, Alex Davis, Jeffrey Nishimura, Kathleen Beaufait, Jimmy Guevara, Eric Kaljumägi – instructor at Learning Assistance Center at Mt. San Antonio College. Guests: Armenuhi Juharyan, Gary Colombo
Absent: Dan Walden

Meeting Outcomes

• Discussions
  o Eric Kaljumägi, math instructor at Mt. San Antonio College Learning Assistance Center, shared with the committee how their Learning Assistance Center is structured. They offer classes in reading, writing, math, and study techniques. They offer assistance for math courses that students are enrolled in, and they also have a separate class that prepares students for math courses such as study skills and techniques. The center also offers tutoring services. Mr. Kaljumägi also shared with the committee how they measure student success, and it's not necessarily measured by the amount of students getting certificates or transferring, but rather how the students find the program to have helped them in the long run such as getting a job for example.
  o If students score lower than English 20 on ENL placement test, they must take and successfully complete Learning Skills courses before they can enroll in English 20. Another option would be to retake the placement test.
  o It was also discussed how the students are made aware about the Learning Skills Department. It was concluded that the majority of students are not aware about the existence of the program. Students at OSS are referred to Learning Skills by Learning Disability specialists and counselors as needed.
  o The survey/questionnaire was presented to the committee by Daniel Marlos.
  o Kathleen Beaufait presented her findings regarding the history of the LACC Learning Skills Department after consulting the college catalogs at the MLK library. According to her, the department dates back to 1971. Only 7 courses were offered back then in math, reading, and writing. In 2006, 50 different classes were offered, but not all the classes were offered every semester. Currently, they are down to 20 classes not offered every semester.

• Tasks to be completed:
  o Jeff and Gary will work further with Ed Pai to gather data from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.
  o The committee will work on the survey/questionnaire; more questions will be added. The questions need to be compatible with the department’s mission statement.
  o The LS department chair, MaryAnn DesVignes, will be invited to the next meeting to provide the committee with further details regarding the program.

Adjournment 4:30pm
Next meeting: Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at 3:00pm.

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