Committee Meeting Report

Committee: Learning Skills Viability Committee
Date: 02/26/2014

Participants
Daniel Marlos, Arax Cohen, Dana Cohen, Kathleen Beaufait, Jeffrey Nishimura, John Freitas
Guests: Armenuhi Juharyan, Gary Colombo

Meeting Outcomes

- Discussions
  - Gary Colombo shared with the committee his findings of how English/ESL sequence is structured in other colleges that are more successful than LACC yet have a similar Spanish population. He researched San Diego City College, Santa Ana City College, San Francisco City College, Mt. SAC, and LACC. The findings were that those colleges offer less basic skills English courses and more CTE and transfer level English courses; whereas at LACC we do the opposite. In addition, their basic skills remediation courses are linked with the English sequence, whereas the learning skills courses at LACC are not linked with college level English courses. For example, a student who is currently taking English 101 is also allowed to take an English course at Learning Skills. We offer the largest ESL program in the district.

  - The practice of offering more remedial level courses and less CTE and transfer level courses is turning away potential CTE or transfer students who place in a college level English course, yet cannot get a seat in those courses. Those students who place in college level English and/or math course should be guaranteed a seat in those courses.

  - The committee is currently looking at the following possible recommendations:
    1. COMPASS to develop a specific recommendation for improving the basic skills pathways.
    2. Narrowing the mission of the Learning Skills department.
    3. Centralizing the tutoring services
    4. COMPAS to look at all the basic skills sequences campus wide.

- Tasks to be completed:
  - Dan Marlos, Kathleen Beaufait will conduct Learning Skills Department faculty interviews. (Armenuhi will take the minutes).
  - Gary Colombo will ask Roger Wolf to research the same colleges (San Diego City College, Santa Ana City College, San Francisco City College, Mt. SAC) for their math courses sequence and structure.

Adjournment: 3:55pm
Next meeting: TBA

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