

Achieving the Dream Core Team  
Meeting Summary  
February 10, 2009  
3:15 p.m.

Present: Peg Moir - Chair, Richard Birk, Beth Franz, Kate Peresie, Don Plotts, Tom Prendergast, Margaret Puckett, Bob Robbins, Keith Stoner, Bev Walker, Traci Lykins - recorder

Absent: Sheila Campbell, John Falls, Ken McCreight

Guest: Cathy Craig

**Status Report on COMPASS e-Write**

Cathy Craig joined the group to report on the progress of the e-Write pilot. Students who score above 70 on COMPASS are given the e-Write assessment. If they score 7 or 8 on that they are given the choice to take ENG101. This has been tracked since Winter Quarter 2008. C. Craig passed out a spreadsheet of statistics for students tracked last year, and another for students tracked so far this year. The purpose is to determine whether the English Department wants to eventually use e-Write as a tool to assess all students. This information was shared with Mike Allen (English Department Chair) at the end of Summer Quarter 2008. Peg Moir noted that the English Department should use the statistics tracked to this point to start making decisions as to whether this form of assessment should continue to be used. C. Craig noted that the score of 7 on e-Write was an extremely high score according to the ACT staff. This could be the reason why so few students are able to achieve it. Beth Franz will share this with M. Allen and English Department. C. Craig will continue to track the data.

**Status Report SSC Advising Support**

Bev Walker distributed tracking data and reported to the group on the math diagnostics portion of COMPASS. The college has been administering this for quite some time. There needs to be a connection made between the results of the diagnostic assessment and some follow-up activity. Moir noted we should continue this discussion when John Fall (current Math Department Chair) can be present.

B. Walker also reported on CSI assessment tracking and passed out a form with statistics. There are noticeable changes beginning in Winter Quarter 2008 when many more math students were placed into the Directions program. P. Moir stated the information shows that the volume of students is up and asked B. Walker if there is data showing that additional student contact is helping retention. B. Walker does not have statistics on that after 2005.

**Gates Foundation RFP**

The RFP for the Gates Foundation grant has been released. All Core Team members were e-mailed a copy yesterday. The grant is for approximately \$750,000 over three years. All AtD first and second round colleges are eligible to apply. There's a short turn-around time on this; the proposal is due April 1. If the college is awarded the grant, we must commit to continuing whatever initiative is chosen after the grant funding period is up.

There are many different avenues to take in choosing a direction for a project for the grant. The group had a lengthy discussion about possible focus for the grant proposal. The proposal must revolve around developmental education and must be an institution-wide commitment. There are few department chairs on this committee and we have an interim dean in the Business & Education division. Reps on Core Team may not feel empowered to make decisions. P. Moir would like to hear their input.

Kate Peresie noted that she's starting to notice many students already in programs who, even though they have passed through their developmental courses, still have lasting issues. She suggested that supports are needed for students all the way through their time here. Many of the students we're seeing never expected or even wanted to attend college.

The group briefly discussed the centralization and coordination of the developmental education department. Bridge courses were also suggested. P. Moir suggested that we envision ways to reach beyond our institution to try to prevent the need for development education before students reach our doors. To work with high schools to help students get ready for college and communicate our expectations before they arrive. According to the RFP an advantage would be given to projects that help the most students in the least amount of time. P. Moir also noted that partnership opportunities exist in this community that are not yet been taken advantage of. There was concern about some local high schools and their role in this. In the past they have not been interested in working with us. However, they now know they have a problem and their problem will eventually be our problem. Because of strategic initiatives at the State and even Federal level, we will see more and more students needing more and more help. All new initiatives are going toward a P-16 concept.

B. Franz noted that we have other stakeholders within the college who should have input and that we must move quickly. Some members of this group will meet with Council of Deans tomorrow. If need be, they can follow up the meeting with electronic information. Discussion will be continued at the next Core Team meeting.

### **Baccus and Stirn Visit Planning**

The final visit from our Coach and Data Facilitator, Eileen Baccus and Jacki Stirn, will be March 25 and 26. The Core Team meeting that had been scheduled for March 24 has been rescheduled to March 25 at 1:00 p.m. so that they can attend. They will likely be attending the BOT meeting on March 25. Jacki Stirn has also offered any help she can provide in regards to the Gates Foundation grant proposal preparation.

### **Strategy Institute**

The Strategy Institute is next week, Tuesday through Friday. Five college representatives are attending. There are many information sessions to choose from, including one on the Gates Foundation RFP. The attendees will report back to the Core Team at the next meeting on February 24.

### **Annual Data Profile**

Tom Prendergast reported. The college received some data from JBL, the IT firm to which we submit data for AtD. He distributed a condensed version of some of the data. However, 07-08 data was not included in their report and we didn't start seeing good data until then. This will give us some insight though. The fall progress report will be more helpful.

**Other**

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

The next Core Team meeting will be Tuesday, February 24, 3:15 p.m., room 149-F