

Achieving the Dream Core Team
Meeting Summary
February 24, 2009
3:15 p.m.

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

Absent: John Falls, Ken McCreight, Don Plotts, Bob Robbins

Strategy Institute Debrief

Peg Moir reported on the Strategy Institute that five college representatives attended last week. Group members attended workshops and received a lot of information. A few members of the NC State group, along with reps from Cuyahoga Community College and Zane State College presented a workshop. Keith Stoner created a video that was shown at the workshop. P. Moir noted the video was very good and the presentation went well. She passed around materials collected from workshops at the Strategy Institute and also copies of what was distributed at the workshop she helped with. There was a breakfast for colleges eligible to apply for the Gates Foundation grant and the Core Team leaders meeting focused on the Gates Foundation grant as well. P. Moir noted that she came back with many “things on the list”. She also noted the need for more data and to refocus on data.

Gates Foundation RFP

P. Moir reported on specifics about the grant that she learned at the Strategy Institute. There are 37 colleges eligible and there will be up to 15 grants awarded. The grant proposal must show “maximum” or “deep” impact. Colleges are encouraged to apply for the whole amount. Up to 20% can go toward professional development and up to 20% can go toward technical assistance (consultant fees). The grant proposals will be reviewed by a team of national partners with Lumina Foundation and Gates Foundation. Colleges are not encouraged to start something new but to expand upon an existing initiative. It needs to be data driven with good data to work with. We will need to include impact charts that will measure the impact we expect our work to have on targeted groups, including how many and to what level. Professional development is encouraged with inclusion of any partners. There are seven weeks until the proposal is due so we need to make some decisions and start working on a draft of the proposal. We will need data to back up the proposal.

The group extensively discussed the focus and direction for the grant proposal. P. Moir would like us to take a “P-16” approach with area high schools and take advantage of some potential partners within the region. She has spoken with reps from Pioneer Career and Technology Center and Mansfield City Schools and they have expressed an interest in partnering with us. We also know that Richland County Department of Job and Family Services and ABLE are interested in this as well. Tom Prendergast noted that with the P-16 initiative that’s already under way, area high school 8th and 10th graders are taking the ACT pre-tests Explore (8th graders) and Plan (10th graders). Also there is much focus from Perkins; from the State of Ohio; and on the Federal level on the “P-16” concept.

The proposal must include something from Strategic Direction 1 and then something from Strategic Direction 2, 3, or 4. For #1 there is a need for more coordination of Developmental Education but not a separate department. For 2, 3, and/or 4, there were many suggestions from the group. T. Prendergast read from the current budget a list of things we're doing now as a starting point for discussion. Expansion of boot camp or bridge courses and mandatory orientation were discussed. Sheila Campbell asked whether the data has to pertain to our students. P. Moir noted ideally but not necessary, especially if we do not yet have enough data in that area. Richard Birk noted that students need more time than the 11 week quarter. OSU is tentatively to change to semesters in 2012. NC State will probably also change over at that time. There was a suggestion to make the conversion of the developmental education curriculum to semesters the proposal but Moir noted that doesn't fit under the context of "moving students further faster". There is a need to break through students' bad habits and expectations that were established in high school. OSU has a peer tutoring / mentoring program that we could use as a model and work into expectations / outcomes of the course. There is a need to bridge the gap between developmental education and programs because students aren't "cured" with a few developmental education courses – they continue to carry the academic weaknesses. Moir noted that one definition of the scope being wide enough is if other colleges could use the same plan. Beth Franz noted that we need to get input from all math & English faculty even though those groups are represented with members of the Core Team. There are division meetings being held on Thursday, March 5, and reps from the Core Team will talk with their fellow faculty members about this topic at the meetings and do some brainstorming. Also, there is data needed on whether developmental education students have been successful in their higher classes. At the divisional meetings faculty will be asked what students need to succeed and whether we want to have an impact beyond our doors. Moir reiterated that we know we have willing partners on the outside – are there willing partners on the inside. R. Birk stated that high school is not our area of expertise.

The group will come to the meeting on March 10 with a goal of deciding the focus and direction of the grant proposal.

On Course Training Status Report

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

Other

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The next Core Team meeting will be Tuesday, March 10, 3:15 p.m., room 149-F