

Achieving the Dream Core Team
Meeting Summary
March 25, 2009
1:00 p.m.

Present: Peg Moir - Chair, Sheila Campbell, John Falls, Beth Franz, Ken McCreight, Don Plotts, Tom Prendergast, Karen Reed, Keith Stoner, Bev Walker, Traci Lykins - recorder

Absent: Richard Birk, Kate Peresie, Margaret Puckett, Bob Robbins

Guests: Eileen Baccus, Jacki Stirn

Opening and Introductions

Dr. Eileen Baccus our AtD Coach and Jacki Stirn our AtD Data Facilitator joined the group. This is the last year AtD provides these positions and therefore this is their last visit in these roles. Introductions were made. Jacki Stirn noted that we have done a good job. When asked why she stated that our AtD cohort data shows improvement and retention is up. She stated that we have a very committed President and a great Core Team Leader. She also noted that when a student doesn't succeed, it wastes everybody's time and effort; student, faculty, and support staff.

Gates Foundation Grant Proposal

An ad hoc group has been meeting to talk about proposals for the grant. The deadline for the grant proposal is quickly approaching. The grant is for up to \$750,000 over three years. It is open to AtD Round 1 and 2 colleges which give us a good chance at receiving this grant.

Tom Prendergast distributed a summary of proposal ideas or directions the group has come up with so far. He led discussion about each area.

Strategic Direction 1

Physically centralize the developmental academic and support services

- Any infrastructure changes would not fit under grant.
- Math classrooms desire to stay in Bromfield.
- Ken McCreight would like PLATO lab and math courses in same area. PLATO lab satellite discussed - group decided to not include budgeting in grant for more PLATO licenses.

Improve coordination of developmental and linked services

- No interest in having a dedicated coordinator but instead a group/ council

Semester Conversion

- This should possibly be a policy issue.
- When questioned Eileen Baccus noted that yes, a consultant fees on this would be within the grant and that including consultant fees overall is an expectation.

- E. Baccus and J. Stirn both agreed that travel and professional development for faculty would fall under the grant terms. Any on-campus training should also be made available to other faculty at area schools where applicable. Could also pay adjunct to attend training and encouraged to keep them fully included.

Integration of basic study skill tips into every developmental class

- Possibly policy issue.
- Don Plotts noted that students taking ACT Explore and Plan stated they needed study skills.
- Study skills also needed in higher level courses.

Strategic Direction 2 – Strategies to allow students to avoid developmental courses and/or accelerate progress through developmental

- ABLE Solutions Program
- Connex-PLATO
- K-12 Bridge Summer Camp for Math / Math Bridge Program
- Computer Literacy Bridge Program – Keyboarding considered a life skill and should be a requirement

Gift incentives would not be included in Gates grant but food and busing would be. J. Stirn noted that another college she works with offers first choice of higher level course sections/times as incentive. E. Baccus told about a program that high school sophomores take ACT with diagnostics A college could then use the diagnostics information to work with them and their high school instructors to incorporate the skills lacking into their junior and senior curriculum. She noted it is important to let high school students and faculty know what is expected in their college courses. D. Plotts noted that area high schools are open to this if approached correctly.

Strategic Direction 3

Tutoring and Disabilities Services

- E. Baccus stated make sure we have data to support tutoring portion of proposal. Bev Walker noted that she has data on tutoring. J. Stirn stated make sure to compare to students who didn't have tutoring. She stated there is an online database that tracks all colleges' interventions.
- Make sure to include IR staff time which also proves commitment for evaluation. Also make sure to include how we plan to institutionalize or carry forward initiatives.

Baccus and Stirn both stated that anything we put in the grant must have data to support it. What somebody else did doesn't matter. NC State has data that shows improvement occurred. Use your data and don't include too many strategies. Consider what we have proposed so far and pare down.

Peg Moir noted that there is another meeting tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. to start honing this information. Anyone who can come is welcome. She also finished the meeting by thanking Baccus and Stirn for their service to the college and for their help on the Gates grant proposal.

Other

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

The next Core Team meeting will be Tuesday, April 14, 3:00 p.m., room 149-F.