

ACES Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes: 4/13/10

In attendance: Anna Zagorska, Susanne Muszala, Marcy Alan Craig, Helene Jara, Francisco Tostado, Debra Spencer, Deborah Shulman, Margery Regalado, Sesario Escoto, Rachel Mayo, Sheryl Kern-Jones, Beth Nelson, Dee Roe, Victoria Bañales

1. **LC Updates:** Victoria passed around copies of the latest Learning Communities Post-assessment slip, which are attached to student assessment results, letting them know that they are eligible for one of our four LCs: Puente, STARS, DBA, or English/Reading 255 LCs. The ACES committee recommended that we include the actual assessment levels (i.e., Reading 255, Reading 206, etc. as opposed to saying Reading 255 or “higher”) given that most students do not know that 205 is “higher” than 255, for example. Francisco Tostado also noted an error in one of the contact telephone numbers. Victoria will make the necessary corrections. Other LC updates:
 - **Puente:** Victoria reminded committee members that the 4th Social Justice conference is taking place April 30-May 1. Please encourage students to attend. For more information, please visit socialjusticecabrillo.org
 - **English and Reading 255:** Victoria reported that one of our two organic English/Reading 255 LCs will be merged with STARS for fall 2010; thus we will be offering only one stand alone organic Eng/Read 255 LC. Also, Jim Weckler, BELA Dean, has committed to funding our English/Reading 255 LCs for the next five years. Thank you Jim!
 - **STARS:** Rachel introduced Sheryl Kern-Jones and Eric Grabiell (not present), our two new recently hired staff members for STARS. Rachel also explained that Title V has professional development funds that, as workshops/conferences come up, will be made available to faculty/staff who teach in STARS or are interested in teaching for STARS. If there is room for others, then these slots will be made available for anyone who teaches in an LC and possibly extended to the general faculty/staff population. As the first to take advantage of this opportunity, Alfonso Lobato and Victor Ramos (both in Math) will be attending a conference on LCs at the end of the month. Rachel also provided details about Math 254 SI (supplemental instruction), and she will be in touch with us letting us know how staff in learning skills, counselors, and others can help students get information and/or help them register for STARS. In the meantime, faculty and staff can have students call 477-3290 or email stars@cabrillo.edu. Sheryl will send a draft of an LC Matrix, which includes all LCs, which should help us properly route particular students (based on assessment scores and other criteria) into LCs. These can be used by counselors and others. It

would be helpful to have all of this information available, including representatives from each LC, during Running Start, which takes place May 21. Preparations are underway.

- **DBA:** Beth Nelson addressed DBA's name change to ACE, which stands for Academy for College Excellence. At Cabrillo, the program will still be referred to as DBA, at least through fall 2010. Nationally, however, DBA is now known as ACE.
 - **SMP:** Victoria reported that EOPS' Summer Migrant Program, which is a summer learning community that serves mostly high school migrant education PVUSD students, will be joining us under the umbrella of ACES and will now be featured in our ACES LC promotional materials. Welcome SMP!
2. **ACES Name Change:** Victoria addressed the issue of yet another possible name change for ACES. Reasons include: avoiding confusion between ACE (DBA's new name) and ACES; reflecting upon our evolving identity and our growing emphasis on LCs; creating a shared lexicon where everyone knows what a "learning community" is; addressing former concerns from Marketing that ACES sounds like a "poker club." The committee talked about several possibilities for a name change, including:
- CLC: Cabrillo Learning Communities
 - CCLC: Cabrillo College Learning Communities
 - CLIC: Cabrillo Learning Intellectual Communities

The favored was CLC, although the group wondered what the pros and cons are of having an acronym (or not). Sesario Escoto will get in touch with Kristen Fabos, Marketing, to get some input. The group also agreed we should ask our students for their opinion, yet overall we agreed that such a name change should include "Learning Communities" so that, as a campus, we can begin to create a shared vocabulary. We will revisit this possible name change next semester.

3. **English 255 and Reading 255 Learning Community Name Change:** since June of 2009, ACES proposed that this organic LC would benefit from having a jazzier program name. All other LCs have a specific name/acronym, such as Puente, DBA, SMP, STARS, and many feel that the English/Reading 255 LC needs a name of its own, particularly because "English/Reading 255 LC" sounds so dry and boring. Some names proposed in the past by ACES members include: "Word Up!" "Read Up! Write Now!" "Read! Write! Now!" "Read-Write Jam." The committee reviewed these possible names today, but many of us felt that they were too infantile, "highschoolish," and reductive. Deborah Shulman proposed we consider "REAL: Reading and English Academic Learning." Victoria will pass this information along to all those who teach (or have taught) in the English/Reading 255 LCs and get their input. The Committee also felt that instructors who teach in these LCs should get input/ideas from their students. Victoria reported

that this name change needs to happen quickly so that we can list it in our forthcoming LC brochure.

4. **ACES Collective Recommendations to the Office of the President:** Victoria is meeting with Brian King, per his request, to give him input and ideas on how he can support our efforts. Margery Regalado reminded the ACES committee that there is another committee, the Outreach and Intake Task Force, that will be giving its own recommendations to the VP of Instruction and VP of Student Services—and ultimately the Cabinet—and thus we should be mindful of not replicating our suggestions to the office of the President. The Task Force’s recommendations, to be given today at a later meeting with the VPs, include: 1) To create more involvement between students, staff, counselors, and faculty in the outreach and intake process, 2) To increase LC collaboration, data, sharing, and efficiency for outreach and intake, 3) To institutionalize the LC Coordinator position as grants expire, and 4) To create a procedural change that requires or recommends LCs for certain students depending on particular criteria. Following Margery’s report, members of ACES brainstormed and came up with the following additional suggestions to deliver to the Office of the President. ACES would like the president to:

- Encourage/support fundraisers, sponsorships, donors, and other creative ways to help deal with recent heavy loss of funds for ACES student programs
- Mention and promote our LCs in speeches, press releases, All College Day, etc., including: informing others of what is an LC, helping create a common understanding and lexicon on campus, mentioning the links between LCs and student success data rates, emphasizing that our LCs are central to supporting our basic skills students and that they help create more movement between basic skills to transfer-level, making LCs an institutional priority (not a periphery), and acknowledging instructors who teach in LCs—acknowledge their commitment, dedication, etc.
- Encourage ongoing support for LC coordinating units, especially given the extra work involved for instructors who teach in an LC
- Get involved in the discussion of who decides to teach in an LC and how these decisions are made
- Visit LC classrooms—drop by and familiarize himself with students and teachers
- Encourage all faculty/staff to participate in the FELI workshops

Victoria will meet with Brian King this Thursday to deliver our collective recommendations. Any other recommendations are welcome—send an email to vibanale@cabrillo.edu before Thursday, April 15.

5. Updates on ACES-related Activities:

- **College Master Plan Strategies B1a and B3c:** Victoria reported that many of our tutorial labs, including Math, Reading, English, CTE, Learning Skills, and the ILC, are looking into consolidating their software, using the same/similar system used by the Math lab. This will reduce college costs in the long run, make it easier for students to log in (since they will be using the same system in all of the above labs), and make it easier for PRO to gather research/data. Ed Brauhn is spearheading this effort. We have a year to explore this exciting possibility and get the software up and running. Sesario Escoto reminded us that, if interested, the college can make use of the magnetic strips or barcodes that exist on the student activities cards. For example, students could log in to all existing labs using their ID cards. Victoria will run this idea by Ed Brauhn and others involved in the project of universalizing our lab software.
- **Special Basic Skills Presentation to the Board:** Victoria reported that a special presentation was delivered March 22, informing the Board of our efforts at supporting basic skills students. Those presenting included: Renee Kilmer, Craig Hayward, Victoria Bañales, Rachel Mayo, and Diego Navarro. The presentation was very well received, and board members were enthused about the research concerning basic skills students, our growing LCs, and ACES' efforts.
- **Spring Regional CCC BSI Session:** Victoria reported that the following faculty/staff members will participate in the "Barriers and Solutions for Improving Students' Academic Performance and Completion" Workshop this upcoming April 30 in Berkeley: Renee Kilmer, Rachel Mayo, Victoria Bañales, Marcy Alan Craig, Eric Grabiell, Sheryl Kern-Jones, Jason Malone, Wanda Garner, and Jim Weckler.
- **LC Brochure:** Victoria reported that our brochure production is being delayed due to difficulties in finding the right cover shot. Beth Regardz and Victoria Bañales agreed that we need to stage another student photo shoot. Thus, students will be rounded up for a photo shoot next Friday, April 23. Evelyn Hirsch from Marketing will be photographing the students (former LC students). Should we create the magic shot, we will be on our way to closing in on this project. Victoria will keep the committee informed on our progress, and Beth and Victoria call a meeting to showcase the brochure (for last minute changes, editing, suggestions, etc.) before it goes into full production.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm. This is our last official ACES meeting of the semester. Thank you all who attended one or more meetings this year!