ACES Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes: 2/4/10


1. **On Course 3-Day Workshop Update:** The ACES Coordinator reported that 27 Cabrillo faculty participated in Cabrillo’s 3-day professional development flex workshop, which was funded through the California basic skills initiative. The following ACES members participated in this workshop: Ekua Omosupe, Susanne Muszala, Ed Braunhut, Jeannette Richey, Helene Jara, Cheryl Chaffin, and Victoria Banales. The workshop, facilitated by Robin Middleton from Jamestown Community College, provided valuable exercises and strategies to motivate students to “stay on course.” Those who attended the workshop said the On Course workshop was extremely informative and valuable. Susanne Muszala and Victoria Banales shared and modeled one exercise they found valuable: “Responsibility Language: Victim and Creator.” Worksheets were distributed, and members in attendance were encouraged to use this simple exercise with their students in an effort to motivate students and help them make better choices (i.e., “I can’t do math” vs. “I’m going to ask my math instructor for help”). For those who are interested, the On Course I Workbook will soon be available in the library’s Reserves. The Workbook contains dozens of easy worksheets and interactive exercises for use in the classroom.

2. **Learning Community Updates:**
   - **English/Reading 255:** The ACES Coordinator reported that the English/Reading 255 Learning Communities were full, but that unfortunately one of the two cohorts got unlinked due to personal issues. Susanne Muszala will nonetheless continue to work with students in both the unlinked English and Reading courses to ensure that the students continue to benefit from a “learning community” environment.
   - **DBA:** Some DBA cohorts are not full, and because there are many waitlisted students in English, the DBA and the English Departments have agreed to open up available spaces in English for any students wishing to enroll in 255 or 100. Jim Weckler, Dean of BELA, will send a message to counselors soon.
   - **STARS:** Rachel Mayo provided an update on Title V activities and progress. She reported that 3 classrooms were updated to smart (410, 411, 1064); 2 information
kiosks were purchased for Aptos and Scott’s Valley (a third may be purchased for Watsonville); Summer Bridge 2010 classes are in the summer schedule and include reading, CG, math, and more. There is also a new reading collection for Aptos and Watsonville. Rachel also reported that we received our first (approx. $20,000) endowment to Title V, and that there are some funds available through salary savings. Also, the selection process in the hiring of the two new positions is still underway, and announcements will be made as soon as this is finalized. FYE planning for 2010-11 is ongoing, and all faculty are encouraged to log on to the Faculty Inquiry Network.

- **Puente:** Adela Najarro reported that Puente is doing very well, and that she is gearing up for the 4th Social Justice Conference, which will feature Cruz Reynoso (first Latino on the California Supreme Court), Luis Alejo (Mayor of Watsonville), and Rus Jones (Narcotics Detective). The conference dates are 4/30-5/1. For more information or to submit proposals, visit the newly created website: SocialJusticeCabrillo.org.

- **Assessment Slips:** The ACES Coordinator passed around samples of the new Learning Community Assessment slips, which are now being attached to students’ assessment reports in an effort to advertise for and recruit students into our learning communities. Beth Nelson reported that they have definitely helped with DBA recruitment.

- **Learning Communities Brochure:** The ACES Coordinator passed around a template-draft of our forthcoming brochure, made possible by the ASCC grant that ACES received last semester. The design committee agreed that we should advertise as “Learning Communities” — as opposed to “Academic Community for Educational Success”) — since many students don’t know what ACES is or means. Evelyn Hirsch will be snapping more professional photos of students this semester to improve the quality of our photos; each LC will also need to include a short paragraph describing the LC, and the Engl/Read 255 will need to come up with a new name; student quotes will be added, too. The design team will reconvene this semester to complete the brochure by the April deadline.

3. **Budget Cuts for 2010-11:** Due to our 65% budget reduction, ACES is projecting big cuts for next year. Most of the cuts will affect LIAs, tutorials, and EAP. To help assuage the deep cuts, the Office of Instruction has agreed to seek funding to continue our ongoing support for two DBA cohorts, and BELA has agreed to fund the LC coordinating units for Eng/Read 255 LCs. The ACES Coordinator reported that ACES has been dipping into 1-time funds, but these will run out soon. Last but not least, we can no longer support requests for individualized professional development (conference attendance) but will
continue to encourage faculty to attend the BS workshops (which are cost-effective) in addition to promoting more professional development at flex workshops.

4. **College Master Plan: Gait Strategies**: The ACES Coordinator will be contacting all lab directors to plan a meeting to discuss Strategies B1a and B3C (tracking student use of labs and lab software options).

5. **Streamlining Processes Task Force Design Session**: A special meeting was held in December to strategize around the college’s massive budget cuts and how to support students in spite of the lack of funds/resources. This was a productive meeting, facilitated by Peter Gaarn; there will be follow-ups. A wide array of people were in attendance—deans, counselors, support services, EOPS, ACES—and both short- and long-term solutions, ideas, and goals were shared and discussed.

6. **President’s Request**: Brian King stopped by during our meeting today for a brief visit to see how he could help our efforts in supporting the needs of basic skills students. Some suggestions from ACES members included: more funding, more outreach to high school students, more buy-in for our LCs on campus, and more help with recruitment efforts. The ACES Coordinator will meet separately with Brian King to see how the President can support our efforts. Suggestions and ideas from ACES steering committee members should be emailed to vibanale@cabrillo.edu.

7. **Next ACES Meeting**: to be decided. Stay tuned!