

**BSLCAC Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, 10/28/11, 10am-12pm, SAC W 202**

Present: Sheryl Kern-Jones, Joseph Carter, Francisco Tostado, Sylvia Winder, Helene Jara, Debra Spencer, Jennifer Cass, Vicki Fabbri, Luz Maria Cardona, Beth Regardz, Margaret Tam, Ekua Omosupe, Jason Malone, Eric Grabiell, Gabriela Rodriguez, Victoria Banales

**Learning Communities:**

1. **Learning Communities Center:** Victoria Banales shared about Cabrillo's new Learning Communities Center (LCC), a centralized place where students can receive information about or get help enrolling in one of Cabrillo's various Learning Communities, including ACE, PUENTE, STARS, REAL, SMP, and more:
  - Start date: 10/24/11
  - Aptos Location & Hours: Room 501, M-Th 10am-3pm, #477-3340
  - Watsonville Location & Hours: Room 4300, M/W 12-1pm & T/Th 11am-2pm, #786-4764
  - The Center has hired five student interns (former ACE interns) to assist at the front desk—some students are on work study, Fast Track to Work, or Basic Skills funds
  - The interns will share space with STARS staff
  - The Center plans to hold an open house later in the term
  - Victoria will be the Lead Supervisor, but other job supervisors have been assigned from STARS staff
  - An Orientation for the interns and LC reps took place Friday, 10/21 & another is scheduled for Friday, 10/28, to support the merging of LCs at our new center
  
2. **LC Guided Enrollment Sessions:** Victoria discussed a new pilot that is happening this term where students will receive 1:1 "guided enrollment" sessions following their Assessments. With the reduction in ACE staffing due to the end of the Gates grant, a Task Force (lead by Margery Regalado) was created to address LC outreach activities to make sure students receive information about ACE and other LCs. The Task Force determined that live bodies were needed, on location and during the delivery of Assessment scores, to help "guide" students in making informed choices about their course selections and learning community options. Therefore, following each scheduled Assessment, Eric Grabiell (and a few other LC Reps who have volunteered) will be available to provide Guided Enrollments for students who assess at the English 255 or 100 levels. LCC student interns will also support these sessions.
  
3. **LC Updates:**

- ACE: ACE will offer 3 cohorts in the spring: 2 in Aptos & 1 in Watsonville. Vicki Fabbri shared that ACE is going through a transition process, and losing staff and working with only 3 TUs (as program director) to manage all of the intricacies of an interdisciplinary program is proving difficult.
- STARS: Eric Grabiell shared that the second STARS year is well underway with an ESL/ECE and Health & Wellness focus. Next year STARS will focus on STEM fields. There will be three summer courses with many science/math hands-on activities. The year-long cohorts aim to get basic skills students comfortable in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math). English courses will also be contextualized and revolve around STEM theme(s).
- REAL: Victoria reported that there will be 1 LC offering next term focused on Social Networking. The LC will be taught by Winnie Baer (English) and Maggie Paul (Reading).
- PUENTE: No rep for Puente available for an update.

### **Basic Skills:**

1. **Basic Skills Action Plan:** Victoria shared copies of the BS Action Plan 2011-12. She also shared information regarding the new reporting requirements and the need for colleges to demonstrate “alignment” between Action Plans and Funding. For Cabrillo, this means that we are to report any funded practices that support our stated long-term goals (“Basic Skills Center”—or what we now call our Learning Community Center). Therefore, although BSLCAC will still support non-funded and/or non-aligned effective practices that serve our basic skills students and programs (i.e., tutorials, professional development, etc.), we are no longer required to report these particular activities in our yearly Action Plans.
2. **Basic Skills Coordinator Workshop Update:** Victoria shared two highlights of the BS Coordinator Workshop in Sacramento in September:
  - **Acceleration Push:** Victoria shared BSI’s emphasis on “acceleration practices” and the push to move students more quickly through their course sequences (studies seem to indicate that students who have to go through numerous course sequences in order to reach their goals tend to give up.)
    - BSLCAC committee members expressed concerns about this drive for acceleration—i.e., ongoing writing problems in transfer-level courses, lack of readiness, LC students not faring so well as they move from a support-based LC to courses without the same types of support, etc. In sum, BSLCAC members questioned whether or not acceleration works.
  - **Research:** An interesting report was discussed at the BS Coordinators Workshop, highlighting the different success rates for students, depending on whether or not students took their remedial English or

math requirements during their first semester/year, and whether or not they passed these courses, and the effects of this on student persistence. Lynn Wright (moderator) shared that 1<sup>st</sup> year students might have better success rates if they do their English remedial requirement their first semester, and then take on math the following semester. Victoria will contact Lynn Wright to see if a link to this report is available.

3. **Three Strikes You're Out:** Victoria shared a new policy that will soon take effect across California Community Colleges. Under this new system, students who fail (D, F, or NP grades) or withdraw from any given course three times will no longer be allowed to retake that course at Cabrillo. It is possible that students will not be able to take that course anywhere in a California college, although it is unlikely that the tracking mechanisms between colleges will be in place anytime soon.
  - It is important to begin sharing this information immediately with all of our students. BSLCAC members agreed that a wide-spread campaign will be necessary, including web advisor pop ups, bathroom fliers, division announcements, letter drives, etc. The committee also expressed that it is imperative that faculty counsel students to drop a course if they are having real difficulties early on in the semester (before the last day to drop) to avoid a "strike." It is unclear whether there will be a mechanism/petition for students to by-pass this new policy. Lastly, the committee questioned how many students will likely be affected.
4. **Basic Skills Flex Workshops:** four exciting workshops for spring (save the dates):
  - Tuesday-Friday, 1/24-1/27, On Course II Workshop (2 full days & 2 half days)—contact Sheryl Kern-Jones if you've completed On Course I and are interested in signing up for On Course II
  - Tuesday, 1/31, 10am-12pm, "Supporting Our Students/Supporting Ourselves: Deepening Our Understanding of the impact of Gangs and Other Forms of Social Violence on Our Students' Lives"—will feature community leader Jaime Molina and Cabrillo students.
  - Tuesday, 1/31, 1-3pm, BSLCAC general meeting
  - Friday, 2/24, 10am-3pm, Basic Skills Symposium—will include participants from Hartnell, Gavilan, Cabrillo, and Monterey Peninsula Colleges (hosted by 3CSN)

Meeting adjourned at 12:05pm