

CSM BASIC SKILLS INITIATIVE COMMITTEE Mar. 27, 2013 2:30-3:45 pm 18-207
meeting notes (April 5 draft)

Members Present Co-chairs: James Carranza, Henry Villareal

Sylvia Aguirre	Lloyd Davis (note-taker)	Kathy Diamond
Jamie Marron	Jon Kitamura	Chris Rico
Brandon Smith	Ruth Turner	Carol Wills

Others attending Jeramy Wallace BSI Professional Enrichment Coordinator
Fred Gaines Ethnic Studies
Jen Mendoza Learning Center
Harry Nishanian Mathematics

UPDATES The **March 8 BSI flex day** activity had good turnout and good conversations on expanding SI and RA into other disciplines. The **SoTL website** will be up in a few weeks.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND EQUITY The National Equity Project has introduced the ‘opportunity gap’ concept. ‘Achievement gap’ blames students, while ‘opportunity gap’ shifts responsibility to the institution to help ensure all students are succeeding. Henry reported last week’s DIAG report shows little change in gaps in success rates at CSM since the last student equity report in 2005. African-Americans are at or next to the bottom in success rates in almost all categories. Pacific Islanders were recently disaggregated, and Vietnamese should be as well.

Kathy reported students who use the Integrated Science Center (ISC) perform better in their science classes than nonusers, and the ISC helps underrepresented students more than it helps others. That is captured in the ISC program review, and we can highlight it for IPC. Krystal told IPC we are looking in multiple areas for things we can recommend college-wide. We should inform ASGC we support DEAC initiatives to address the African-American opportunity gap, integrated with Kathy’s comments about ISC.

UMOJA Jen and Fred, who attended the UMOJA Symposium at Skyline March 22, discussed starting a UMOJA program here. African-American students do better, and invest in the college and their peers, when they’re with people they can create relationships with.

UMOJA started at DVC in 2006. Jen has been on its governing board since 2008. In 2009-10, UMOJA was recognized by the Chancellor’s Office as a student success program. Skyline’s 25 year old ASTEP (African-American Success Through Excellence and Persistence) math and English program also fights every year for funding. At the symposium, 10 to 12 schools were represented, and African-American students spoke eloquently of their success and their mentors.

UMOJA Practices, adopted by 32 schools, are general guidelines to create a sense of community. UMOJA colleges have the choice of cohort model or learning community. Jen was coordinator of the UMOJA Tumaini Program at San Bernardino Valley College. They chose to have an LC which they refined over a three year period. Skyline’s ASTEP has worked, but how do you scale it up? To start UMOJA here, Jen and Fred need to get support from BSI and ASGC, then present a recommendation to IPC. If IPC supports it, Jen and Fred will work on a proposal to BSI including structure and resources. Jen’s experience will help expedite that process.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

Revision to RA proposal The only change is now the budget is itemized. The proposal asks for a \$6000 stipend for faculty in faculty inquiry groups (FIGs) next semester (\$200 for each of 30 people), \$2000 to help with registration fees and offset travel, and \$2000 to develop flex day workshop in-house training (about 36 hours at \$55/hr).

The \$6000 FIG stipend was approved. Registration fees were deleted from the first \$2000 (faculty can apply for them separately.) BSI can fund travel for faculty. CSEA staff and administrators should use their own funding sources, such as professional development or the President's Office. The \$2000 to develop flex day workshops was approved. The RA group will identify at our next meeting which of its members will work on flex activities.

James will revise the RFP so people will know what expenses BSI can and cannot cover. BSI can pay for travel and lodging for faculty, and can work with CSEA and administrators on their needs. He will make clear there is no pay for faculty from BSI on flex days.

Members discussed how to attract people to our flex activity and to BSI. This fall RA will be the flex focus, and we could have a few RA people go to each opening day division meeting.

New teaching pedagogy for student success and retention in CSM chemistry This is a proposal to give RA training to certain faculty and staff members. Points in discussion: It's a good idea, but how does helping students who are underprepared for chemistry serve basic skills students? Where do we draw the line with our small SoTL budget? This proposal does not address basic skills students, and there are other funding sources. Also it tries to do too much. We recommended they seek RA training at WestEd, but not with BSI funds, then work with people already using RA. We can discuss in the future how much we want to support proposals that are not specifically basic skills. It is a way to expand, but we need to stay true to our basic skills mission.

Development of Self-Paced Online Videos for CSM Chemistry Students This proposal, from the same group, asks for equipment to create online tutorials. Points in discussion: This should be funded with a Trustees' Grant, Measure G funds or through a program review equipment request. Students have online access to McGraw-Hill's Connect, to videos on chemistry and how to study, and to open source videos. Ask the applicants to coordinate with the LC. Most of the request is for equipment, so we should recommend the group check with ITS about getting or borrowing a laptop. James will send the group these recommendations and cc all of us.

Jamie Marron's submission The proposal asks for stipends for consultation and collaboration time of Jamie and other faculty members, two instructional aides, and Pamela Huntington of Merced College, a consultant on using myreadinglab.com; and for part of an RA course for the aides. Jamie also noted that Allison and Kim put in way more time than they were funded for, and asked about additional funding for them. The committee approved the \$450 consultant fee and some of the requested hours outside regular working hours. We can't cover hours retrospectively, and there is no money for RA training. Jamie will send Henry and James a schedule of meetings so participants can get paid.

This committee's last meeting will be April 22 at 2:30. We will look at the Community College Teaching & Learning Program for new faculty, and we need a new faculty co-chair.