



Solano Community College
Academic Senate
BASIC SKILLS COMMITTEE

Agenda

Friday 8/25/17, 12:00-1:30pm, Room 135

Voting Members: Josh Scott (Basic Skills Coordinator), Tracy Schneider (English Basic Skills Coordinator), Barbara Villatoro (Math Basic Skills Coordinator), Candace Roe (DSP), Jose Cortes (ESL), George Olgin (ASTC), Dwayne Hunt (Administration)

Advisory Members/Guests Melissa Reeve, Michael Wyly, Sarah McKinnon, Terri Pearson, Claudia Tenty, Pei-Lin Van't Hul, Peter Cammish, Dawn Carpenter, Renee Nichole Hamlin, Joseph Ryan, Jack Schouten

Absent: Kamber Sta. Maria, Rebecca LaCount, Cynthia Simon, Genele Rhoads, Isabel Anderson, Shirley Lewis, Rischa Slade, Carlene Coury, Gale Anderson, Robert Payawal, Harry Do, Sarah Britto, Neil Glines, and Nicholas Cittadino.

1. **Call to order** – Joshua Scott, Chair

Josh mentioned that BSI is scheduling an event on the Oct. 10 optional FlexCal day. The Counseling/assessment/basic skills half-day retreat in October drew positive feedback and many participants expressed an interest in more sessions of that kind. He suggests the committee think about whether we may want to have that as a kind of “standing commitment” to offer sessions each optional FlexCal day, to invite campus-wide conversations on issues of universal concern.

2. **Comments from the public.**

Jose announced the upcoming workshops being offered by CAP: one day for English, 2 days for Math (9/29-30). He'd like to fund TA's to go, especially to familiarize them with CAP's focus on “affective domain,” and when and how to make those moves with students. \$25 per person. Dwayne agreed that it sounded like a good deal. Josh suggested they finish the conversation later.

3. **Approval of 5/12 minutes.**

Jack asked a couple of questions about the minutes and the committee responded. The minutes were approved.

4. **Teaching Men of Color in the Community College (CORA) professional development opportunity.** Tracy Schneider.

There's an opportunity to join a 15-hour online course for \$200. Should we fund people who want to take it (with BSI/Equity funds), or should we just use the regular PD funding process?

Dwayne stated that he and some former colleagues have participated in this course and found it very beneficial; in addition, there was an improvement in performance among men of color who took courses from those instructors. The course addresses ways to be authentic, "be yourself," while at the same time supporting and engaging these students. In addition, all students benefit from instructors who show authentic care.

He suggested that Equity funds can be used for this. However, is there some way we can more widely disseminate these ideas? Can we build a more sustained kind of effort to institutionalize this discussion and associated practices?

The committee expressed support for widely inviting faculty, staff and managers to join the course & find a funding source. Follow-up should include convening a meeting of participants to debrief the content of the course and plan next steps for SCC, with the goal of a more sustained effort.

5. **Approval of 17-18 calendar.** We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month with one proposed exception for November (where both 2nd and 4th Fridays fall on holidays). 8/25, 9/8, 9/22, 10/13, 10/27, 11/3, 12/8, 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/9, 3/23, 4/13, 4/27, 5/11

Aye, aye! Unanimously adopted.

6. **Student Success and Equity Council update**—Dwayne Hunt

The goal is to integrate all campus efforts to promote student success. We're not short on great ideas and passion, but too many initiatives fizzle out when people retire, managers change, or funding streams dwindle. Initiatives often have individual champions but a lack of institutional support. SSEC would become the body to oversee these initiatives on an ongoing basis to ensure accountability (outcomes assessment) and sustainability. Quite a lot of funding is now available, so we need to seize this moment to take actions that measurably move the needle on student success.

An announcement will go out in the coming week for a new process to propose projects aimed at "closing the gaps" in student success. SSEC will review proposals against a rubric, and forward successful proposals to Mgmt for funding.

SSEC will support selected projects to build and develop them into sustainable, institutionalized programs.

Selected projects will be incorporated into the integrated Equity/SSSP/BSI plan now required by the Chancellor's office (new structure as of 2017). The integrated plan will require assessment and evidence that funded projects are measurably impacting student success.

Peter asked how much money is available, considering that some of the SSSP and Equity funds have been used to make FT hires. That figure was not available. However, Dwayne reports that the administration is committed to identifying funds for projects recommended by SSEC. Inclusion in the integrated plan expresses a 2-3 year commitment to fund and

support a project, as long as the project is fulfilling assessment / accountability obligations and demonstrating effectiveness.

Claudia asked how a person in one area of campus can know if someone in a different area is already doing work similar or related to a potential proposal. Dwayne replied that the proposal process will include a feedback step so that if a proposal needs to be modified or if it's similar to another proposal, those submitting those proposals will have opportunities to fine-tune, collaborate, etc. Also people on SSEC may well be aware of various efforts underway on campus, and will be able to notice and guard against duplication of efforts.

Claudia pointed out that while many people on campus are doing great things, the people in direct first contact with students are often not informed of those efforts, and in turn cannot direct students to those opportunities.

Dwayne agreed, and pointed out that this highlights the need for developing a robust / formal / official process for vetting and selecting projects. If we can have a single, uniform process that moves initiatives forward, with many people endorsing each proposal at every stage, then awareness of those projects will be more widespread and competing / redundant projects shouldn't be popping up.

7. Discussion of Basic Skills Committee Mission and Name, continued.

The Basic Skills Committee has been meeting since 2007, and over the past 10 years our purpose and role on the campus has changed substantially. In May we discussed our name, our mission, our structure, and how best to serve our most vulnerable students, our students who have historically been labeled "basic skills," a label which has caused more harm than good. After that discussion, I wrote up a proposal (attached) and sent it to the committee. We will discuss whether to modify or adopt this proposal before I meet with Senate Executive Council next week.

Josh presented his proposal to integrate BSI Committee with the revived SSEC (attach). He feels the goals are similar and we don't want the same conversations to be happening in separate venues.

Michael expressed some concerns. SSEC structure and mission has evolved somewhat since this proposal was first introduced. The SSEC is taking shape now as a large group with faculty representation from all schools, as well as Library and 2 reps specific to basic skills (+/- 20 people). SSEC will primarily serve a role of reviewing proposals. A benefit of BSI Committee has been agility, ability to implement ideas quickly; not sure integration into SSC will allow for that. In addition, the Senate may be reluctant to give up the BSI committee.

Dwayne says his hope is that the SSEC will be more action oriented.

Josh stated that that if the two bodies remain separate, redundant conversations will likely occur on alternate Fridays, within the two discrete bodies.

Insufficient time to resolve these questions today.

8. **Brainstorm tasks for upcoming year.** This item will take the bulk of our time as we consider the year ahead. Our committee's mission, primarily, is to support our most vulnerable students as they gain access to transfer-level courses in math and English and to increase their success once they've achieved that access. I am hoping to hear from each of you—what brings you to this committee? What are the tasks, questions, or causes that motivate you? What do you hope we achieve this year? Like last year, this discussion will be the starting point as I develop a thematic meeting schedule for the upcoming year.

- Investigate and promote Zero-cost textbooks / Zero-cost degrees
- Promote opportunities for civil discourse on campus, including with students
- Put ourselves in students' shoes: PD where we have to go through all the hoops students have to go through to register and get to school.
- Wrap-around services for students. Finding some way of connecting students to resources to improve food security, housing security, etc.
- What quick response can a faculty member make to connect a student in crisis (or at risk of crisis) with a needed service? How can we provide easy access for faculty & front-line staff to be able to take action instead of saying: "Go to 400."
- Build and strengthen peer and group tutoring, especially in the centers.
- Monitor the success of MMAP, ensure it's implemented as intended, without excessive use of overrides.
- Provide services or support to help students through math rather than down-placing them when they express anxiety
- Change culture in relationship to Math: positive messaging, focusing on student and staff/faculty affect and moving away from a deficit perspective.
- Centralize conversations as we do in this committee, so we know who's doing what on campus, and what services and opportunities are available for students
- Focus on students in the prison & parole systems. Look at how to train and support faculty to better serve these students.

9. **Adjourn.**

Note: We won't have time to plan our optional FLEX activity for 10/10 during our first meeting, but be thinking about our focus—how can we most help our colleagues support, engage, and empower our most vulnerable students? This may very well link to item #8 on our agenda.