

**Antelope Valley College  
Learning Center  
Summary of Faculty Retreat**

Present on August 2, 2013 from 8:30 to noon: M. Caproiu, D. Flores-Kagan, J. Bowers, K. Jorris, W. Rider, R. Velinda. Unable to attend: K. Martin

**Announcements**

1. Education Portal is available in the "Faculty Resources" section of the Learning Center website for access to videos for workshops and other purposes.
2. Learning Center purchase requests for Prop. 20 funds were sent to J. Kelly. Diane thanked everyone for contributing to the list.

**Meeting with Dr. Parnell and S. Lowry**

Diane and Magdalena gave a report of their meeting on July 2 concerning offering learning assistance outside the purview of LAC 901. As a result of that meeting, the administrators agreed that learning specialists can provide such assistance without enrolling students in LAC 901, citing that it is not an infraction of Title 5 to do so. The administrators also agreed that factors such as the number of students to be served, the types of instructional activities to be accommodated, and allowance of time were considerations to be made by the individual learning specialist. Dr. Parnell announced that a paradigm shift must occur, so it behooves learning specialists to be more creative in the delivery of instruction to students. She also mentioned that because LAC courses do not meet the definition of "high impact" according to the State, fewer LAC tutoring course offerings could result.

Learning Assistance faculty expressed their concern at this retreat that the delivery of instruction in Fall 2013 will be severely restricted due to the cutting of hours to low levels not experienced in previous terms, except in the case of the ESL Learning Specialist. Academic Skills hours were reduced to the point that students in Lancaster will only have access to Karen on Wednesday evenings and no access to Kristie who was only assigned hours in Palmdale. Also, the full-time position, currently on the waiting list of potential vacancies to be filled, has not risen to the top of the list.

All of the instructors present agreed that it is necessary to ask for a meeting with Dr. Parnell to discuss the creation of a stronger academic skills presence at the Lancaster campus and actions that can be taken to accomplish this such as 1) continue to accommodate referrals from discipline faculty and other learning specialists and to increase collaboration; 2) establish the correlation between the availability of Academic Skills Learning Specialists and student attendance; 3) accommodate nursing students in nursing classes only offered in Lancaster with ILIPs and workshops, some for TEAS test review; 4) emphasize individual appointments with students for study skills assistance; 5) for Fall 2013, offer assistance for HD 101 classes offered in Lancaster; and 6) teach discipline faculty how to embed academic skills into course content. Diane will send an Email requesting the meeting take place on Monday, August 19, at 11:00 a.m. when nearly all can be present.

As to the issue of the possibility of LAC tutoring courses not being offered as much in the future, Learning Specialists agreed that credit to AVC for its affiliation with The College Reading and Learning Association should not be disregarded.

**Early Alert**

Learning Specialists agreed that Early Alert should be eliminated because statistically it is not effective and to function it requires clerical help and oversight; however, all agreed that the reinforcement of the Learning Center referral process and relationships with discipline faculty should occur to a greater extent. A suggestion was made to place referral forms in instructors' mailboxes with a cover sheet reminding them that students don't always self-identify their learning assistance needs, so faculty help is needed.

**LAC 901 SLOs Reporting**

The post test was reviewed by those instructors in attendance. Changes to the test were discussed and agreed upon, including a title change to "Learning Outcomes Survey (LOS)." The need for two forms (post test and learning evaluation) will now be eliminated with the substitution of the LOS for both purposes, workshops and ILIPs). Wendy consented to make the revisions and to send the form to all in time to use it for Fall 2013.

#### Other

Diane mentioned that, for the most part, active participants on the Learning Center Advisory Committee are learning specialists and tutorial specialists. She said that because meeting the goals established last term are a priority this term, she will personally ask members to lead sub-groups for each of the three goals and to encourage participation of other members.

Learning Center OOs were discussed briefly. Data is available for computer usage and Website count, but not for the issuance of videos to students. Tutorial Specialists have agreed to devise a method for such. The other OO, promotion of services using four different means, was reported in WEAVE, but with a sub-group (see above) creating a future promotion plan, the impact of such could be greater.

Program Review was not discussed due to the importance of other items on the agenda, but input from all will be solicited very soon.