Antelope Valley College – Learning Center (LC) Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting

The meeting took place on November 14, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Success Center, Room LC 113, at the Lancaster campus. The following members were in attendance: Co-Chairs Diane Flores-Kagan and Dr. Magdalena Caproiu, Snizhana Jane Bowers, Dr. Karen Cowell, Dr. Claude Gratton, Dr. Jessica Harper, Michele Lathrop, Tammy Lopez, Tamira Palmetto Despain, Tasakyna Raper, Wendy Rider, Raquel Trejo, and Rega Velinda.

Announcements
1. Meetings about Accreditation Standard IIB (Learning Center) have begun. Diane, Magdalena, and Michele will attend, but it is expected that all LC faculty and staff will give input.
2. LC Program Review 2014 is posted in the document repository on WEAVE.
3. LC goals for 2014-2015 are available in WEAVE and on the committee group page on MyAVC.
4. Student and AVC employee surveys rating the LC have been dispensed via Survey Monkey.
5. CRLA certification for tutoring will need to be renewed in 2016. Magdalena mentioned that the same CRLA guidelines should apply to all departments utilizing tutors such as STAR, EOPS, and CalWorks with training provided by the LC. Dr. Cowell said that ENGR 210 students want tutoring and although there are currently no qualified tutors, perhaps some can be recruited from Dr. Santorelli's students at CSULB. Christos Valiotis might be able to provide STEM funding.
6. A full-time learning specialist position has not been filled since 2012, making adequate faculty coverage an issue for the Lancaster campus and Palmdale Center.   Suggestions for recruiting faculty learning specialists included recruiting from local colleges (Barstow, Cerro Coso, Victorville, College of the Canyons), enlisting adjunct AVC counselors who have taught HD 101, and posting a notice on the Learning Assistance listserv.

Agenda Items
The LC Advisory Committee's goals for 2014-2015 were discussed.
Goal #1: A grid designed for the promotion of the Learning Center is being utilized.   This 2013-2014 goal will remain in place for 2014-2015 until the process of promotion becomes more systematic. LC faculty and staff will report back to committee members at the May meeting about their progress.
Goal #2: LC resources must be ADA compliant. Tamira, Tassy, and Raquel joined this sub-group for the investigation of the need to ensure that videos are captioned and online resources are audible.
Goal #3: Tamira suggested that a LC Tip of the Week be developed for availability on the AVC Website. A sub-group of Tamira, Claude, Jane, and Tassy will meet to discuss how this process would work and what kind of content to include.   A report will be made at the next LC Advisory Committee meeting in May.

TEAS workshops for remediation were described and discussed. Dr. Cowell reported that 50% of students who take the TEAS do not pass it the second time. Students need individual remediation but often have the mindset that they do not require such. As a result, they often engage in "cramming" for the test. Dr. Cowell looked at other models at different schools and found that there is no prescribed remediation approach for taking the TEAS a second time. The Chancellor's Office allows individual colleges to decide their own approach to remediation.

Collaboration to deliver study skills instruction is occurring. Two Faculty Professional Development events taught by faculty learning specialists are planned, one for "Embedding Learning Assistance" and the other entitled "Classroom Learning Assistance" which is similar and to be offered at Welcome Back

Day for Spring 2015. Faculty learning specialists want to encourage faculty to use what they learn at these events to develop more brain-based, active learning strategies within their classroom instruction.

Claude Gratton reported that he is creating a critical thinking website which will function like a MOOC, and he plans to present it at a Welcome Back Day session in the future. He is also planning to present two faculty professional development sessions per week that focus on common vocabulary and pedagogical approaches. He is currently looking for free online tools that are ADA compliant and would like feedback from members.

Note: Standard 4 FPD credit is available for full-time and adjunct instructors who attend LC Advisory Committee meetings.