Student Success Committee
Wednesday February 24th, 2010 – 2:30pm – 4:30pm
Minutes

Attendance: Lila Snow, Marian Prochter, Donna Accardo, Yvonne Cooper, Ramela Abbamontian, Paula Paggi, Florence Robin, Robin Sawyer, Kimberly Manner, Phyllis Braxton, David Follosco, Chadwick Snow, Izzy Goodman, Crystal Kiekel, Sadaf Sehati, Melanie McQuitty, Ann Hennessey

1) Approval of Agenda: Approved

2) Approval of Minutes: Approved

3) Project Updates
   a. On-Course – K. Manner
      On-Course is a student success program from Skip Downing, who studied the characteristics for successful and unsuccessful students. He identified 8 qualities of a successful student and came up with a new method for teaching based on those qualities. The focus of On-Course is empowering students to take control of their own lives. It focuses on discovery-based learning. This is a cross-curriculum pedagogical philosophy and style that can be applied to all subjects. Izzy recommended that Kim come back and do a 1.5 hour presentation. The official training is $900 per person to go to off-campus training.

   b. Philosophy 185 Final Project: Philosopher’s Cabaret
      - The Cabaret is the culmination of a 1-unit basic skills course attached to a performance piece. Each week, the course focuses on a different college success skill: Reading philosophy, writing philosophy papers, discussing philosophy, debating philosophy, test-taking strategies, and exploring philosophy through creativity. Student wrote two short papers and kept a journal. Moodle was used as the glue. Students posted question, shared journal entries, peer-feedback, etc.

   c. Learning Communities Counselors – P. Braxton
      - These learning communities pair PD 40 and English, teaching students motivation, self-esteem, student responsibility, etc. Data have shown that these students are significantly more likely to complete their English courses, etc. In the future, we would like to follow Summer Bridge with a math learning community, and maybe create pathways for students to go into majors, like science.

4) Funding Proposal: Approved
   a. Summer Bridge: Approved. The costs include increased outreach, computerized assessment, and an additional stipend for meetings and coordination.

   b. Florence Robin – Basic Skills Book Project – Approved Cost would cover cataloging and advertising basic skills books and creating bibliographies so that students and faculty can have better access to these books. Librarian will partner with PD 40 to select appropriate books and read them in class.

5) Handbook Presentations
   a. Ch. 11: Basic Skills & Noncredit: Constructing a Bridge to College and Career Opportunities – Summary by C. Snow
      - Noncredit education is an entry point for 100s of thousands of students who ultimately want to enroll for credit later down the line. It is there for students who are starting from “ground zero.”
b. **Ch. 14: Working with Students Who Have Basic Skills Needs in Transfer Courses: Completing the Building Part II – A. Henessey**

- While 70 – 80% of students test into basic skills courses, only 30% take courses that address those needs. Students ignore advisories, which is why instructors should include content-based teaching that assesses students’ basic skills needs early.
- Instructors have a “Kubler-Ross model” for dealing with basic skills students.
- This is a larger than statewide problem. It’s not just a localized issue. Instructors need an attitude adjustment. Know that the statistics exist and that instructors are not alone.
- Instructors need a “learning identity.” Students have not yet embraced “life as a learner” mentality, where students do not need to get the concepts immediately, but they need to be persistent. It is instructor’s job to get students engaged.
- If you are not getting success with all of your students, then you need to expand the way that you teach:
  - Identify students early.
  - Have reading-based assignments with lots of discussion or writing a one-minute paper about clear, important, or muddy points.
  - Students can create their own rubrics, allowing them to process the information at a deep level. Lots of revision is good.

6) **General Announcements**

a. Call for Proposals: SSSC – It was recommended that math apply to present at the Strengthening Student Success Conference

7) **Next Meeting:** Wednesday March 24th from 2:30pm – 4:30pm