

Basic Skills Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 15, 2011
3:00-4:00pm Building 3-104

Present: Jeanne Gross, David Johnson, Jenny Castello, Alicia Aguirre, Rita Sabaddini, Elizabeth Terzakis, Yolanda Valenzuela, Sandra Mendez, Salumieh Eslamieh, Carla Stoner Brito, Michelle Morton, Denise Hume, Janet Stringer

1. Recent Events (Carla)

Academic senate presentation

Questions about data related to learning communities
message = basic skills is a campus wide issue; how can we work together to support basic students

On Course Training @ CSM

Carla Stoner-Brito, Denise Hum, and Lucia Olson attended & found it very useful. Very hands on (developed exercises/lessons in workshop for different disciplines). Basic Skills @ CSM hosted event. Would be beneficial for all faculty -- basic skills could propose for August flex day and use Measure G, STEM grant, vendor, or academic senate funds. 1 day Facilitator = \$2,800

2. Accelerated College (Measure G initiative) and

4. Discussion of Accelerated English and Math Classes

Create a pathway for students to take classes (primarily in evening) to earn a degree over three years. Program hasn't been fully developed. Measure G = an opportunity to explore what it could look like. Concern that faculty have not been involved in curriculum development for Accelerated College. General agreement would that English faculty would have to be involved.

Questions about the article (50% success rate?). [Exponential Attrition and the Promise of Acceleration In Developmental English and Math](#)

Are there ways to accelerate sequence without compromising academic preparation?

Berkeley City College: reduced 4 unit to 2 unit sequence (101A + 101B). High success rate for those students in English 1A.

Research about acceleration as an impactful practice. We have had something like this -- ACE program? It didn't really work/take off. Need to have a discussion about what has and hasn't worked in the past -- what we've tried.

Need for dialogue between English & Reading faculty and the Dean. History of attempts to reduce units across the board. ENGL / READ 826 9 units. Attempted to integrate curriculum and make it 7 units. Wanted to keep ENGL / READ 836 9 units, but were told that both would have to be 7 units. English faculty felt that their work was used against them and their expertise was ignored. Acceleration may work for self selected students, but it may not work for all students. Major concern is for most vulnerable students that won't succeed in the accelerated model.

The timing is too fast -- Fall 2011. Need to take small, calculated steps.

Gives the impression that when English faculty want to get something though it's incredibly hard, but when the administration wants to get something through suddenly things happen very quickly.

Primary Faculty Concerns = 1) not having people who are experts in field designing curriculum, 2) low success rate, 3) forcing all students to do accelerated model (getting rid of other sections).

Helping students to manage real life so that they can get their work done.

Not necessarily Accelerated, more like a cohort that would guarantee admission to courses and the classes would be at a set schedule (e.g. every thursday for 3 years), and would be available each semester to enable students to complete the sequence. A Pathway that is clear, defined, with a set curriculum and classes available. Students wouldn't be precluded from taking other classes. Maybe call it something different -- Weekend College? College for adults?

Perhaps these are two different issues: 1) setting up pathways and creating cohorts, and 2) the idea of acceleration in English & Math.

Articulation: acceleration in math ("Stat Path" @ los Medanos): an alternative, accelerated pre-requisite for statistics. Issue about whether it would be accepted for transfer at CSU & UC. (Math 200 with intermediate algebra prerequisite is how class is currently approved at Cañada). Lynn researching articulation. "Stat Path": curriculum approved it as an equivalent to other course.

Accelerated College Committee: Invited some people to be on committee as needed (Janet Stringer's office Thursdays 11:30 -- Salumeh will attend next meeting). Currently have a counselor, need an English faculty person.

Dean should come to English Department meeting for further discussion. English Department will report back to Basic Skills next meeting

3. Approval of Basic Skills Mission Statement

"Cultivating a strong sense of community among our students, faculty and staff, Canada College empowers Basic Skills/ESL students by teaching them the necessary academic skills, counseling them about educational and career opportunities, and providing them with the academic support to transition into and through certificate, degree, and transfer courses and programs."