



Trinity Valley Community College
Learning Initiative Council

October 19, 2007

2:30PM Baugh Technology Center Conference Room

Present: Kay Pulley, Wanda Mayes, Linda Gann, Judy Callicoatt, Janice Sutton, Russell Self, Kippi Harraid, and Iris Reeves

Absent: Jeremy McMillen, Janet Lumpkin, Wendy Mays, Eric Moseley, Terry Spurlock,

Guests: Tina Rummel, and Beth Williams

1. **Minutes from 08/14/07 meeting reviewed and approved**
2. **Continuing Search For Learning Lab Coordinator And Research Director**
 - We have duplicate applications for this position and the Institutional Research Director (IR). To avoid another round of interviews we will not hire anyone until after the IR Director is selected.
3. **Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Request For QEP Summaries**
 - Kay and Jeremy are working on the response to this request. It is a summary of what we are doing in our QEP. Luckily, we can use existing reports for the bulk of the information. The report is due November 1st. Jeremy hopes to be asked to submit a presentation based upon the quality of our report.
4. **Assessment Team Update – (Discipline-Specific Reading, Developmental Reading, and Engagement Reports). Considering a New Reading Consultant**
 - Wendy has done a wonderful job in getting the reading and engagement tests set up online for us.
 - Council reviewed the student prescriptions given to test takers. These prescriptive study recommendations print out on student test results based upon the student's WebCT test score. Instructors have copies of the recommendations to distribute and discuss with students when needed.
 - We asked instructors to look at their tests and identify hard, medium, and easy questions because teachers are concerned if they testing reading or course content? Kay has contacted a reading specialist requesting she work with us as a consultant or possibly recommends someone else to help us.
 - Beth has done an excellent job of making sense of the raw data we have given her. She compiled test results that include a comparison with 2006 testing. We experienced a significant drop in the number of test takers in every area except Developmental Reading where the test is required. We cannot gauge how we are doing when less than 30% of the 2690 eligible (non-developmental) students take the test. We must have maximum

involvement. We included this info in a letter when results were sent to teachers. Beth will continue to fine tune her reporting

- One finding in reports is that Developmental students show more improvement because of the interventions that are part of their courses.
- There was a suggestion that we approach the division chairs for support. A possible forum would be the meeting Jeremy has with the division chairs.
- Students and instructors are confused about if they need to test in multiple classes; they tend to take the tests only in classes that offer extra credit. Tina offered examples of students concerns and problems with taking the tests.
- There was a suggestion to just tell students to take the test, do not ask because if there is wiggle room they will not test. Additionally we need to address the need to help students learn how to think and find information by reading the material themselves.
- Jeremy and Dr. Jan are working with local high schools and the Coordinating Board to develop common course syllabi to come up with what is expected for College Readiness.
- Linda will make her post-test questionnaire available to any council member or instructor that wants it. It is designed to let students tell us how or if they are prepared for their test. This should give teachers insight into what factors contributed to their performance.

5. Academy Team Update – (Academies & Learning Day Report Etc.)

- Learning Day was a success, most evaluations were positive. Tina has given Linda evaluations of all sessions. There were still some non-productive remarks from the “*usual suspect*”.
- The opening speaker Dale Cates was a resounding success. He informed, entertained, and generally started the day on an upbeat note. President Baugh was very satisfied with Learning Day.
- Ron Walker inspired a number of people to join the academy
- The Learning Academy Sophomore group met (100% attendance by the 9 members) and they are as motivated as ever.
- Linda met with the new Academy group. There are eleven enthusiastic members.
- We are keeping an open purchase order to purchase books as needed. The new Academy class received their first book at their initial meeting. Janice will order library copies of each title we use.

6. Engagement Team Update – (Student Networking Groups & Networking 101)

- Kay presented Janet’s report in her absence. She is doing online work with instructors and trying to determine how the techniques they learn are working for them.
- Participation in Networking 101 has been disappointing. We need to find a way to make this work. We may have more success with new faculty.

- We need to encourage and train instructors to use technology, students respond well to classes that use things like smart rooms and offer a measure of entertainment in a form they know.
- The Terrell Tribune did an article on Sunday (special front page) on Sherri and Janet about new teaching techniques. It discusses the new team-based approach and positive student responses.
- We will remind teachers to report their innovations using the forms we provide. Many are doing good things but have not reported them because they do not fit exactly on the activity log. We need them to report everything.
- Kudos to Wendy Mays and staff for producing the data feedback. Results are startling.
- There was a suggestion to include the tests that are now on WebCT in tests that are a part of in class tests or quizzes. Take the test at the first then do the same thing 4 or 5 weeks later or on each test through the semester. Students may take the tests more seriously if they are incorporated in regular class tests. Judy is the only one who has the software (at HSC) that can do this. Beth indicated that though this is good, the Research Department would have no way to track this data.
- Southwest Texas Community College is doing a reading QEP. Kay has some material from their reading specialist for review. They are addressing only 4 of the 6 skills.
- We may need someone to write a bank of questions (or a template) for teachers to pull from to more accurately assess where our students are. Wanda suggested a book called "Reading in the Disciplines" to help us. Unfortunately, Wanda and Wendy cannot oversee every instructor's tests and /or course content to create valid tests. Basically, a reading specialist could pick the questions after the teachers pick the passage.

7. Invite Other Team Updates and/or Additional Discussions

- Discussions on how to get students to take tests that are not part of their class requirements.

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8. Discuss Next Meeting Plans, Council's Future, and Impact of New Top Leadership

- Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 30th at 1 PM before the holiday break in December.
- We may have to explain what it is we are trying to do all over again to the new administration. Keep in mind that what we are doing is working, we are on the right track, and we need to take stock of what this council has accomplished and will accomplish in the future. Stay positive...

9. Meeting Adjourned at 4:18 PM