



**Trinity Valley College  
Learning Initiative Council  
Meeting Minutes, Friday, December 5, 2008  
2:30 PM Baugh Technology Center Conference Room**

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**Present:** Kay Pulley, Jeremy McMillen, Wanda Mayes, Wendy Mays, Janice Sutton, Rebecca Whitley, Tina Rummel, Kippi Harraid, Eric Mosley

**Absent:** Russell Self, Judy Callicoatt, and Iris Reeves

**Guest:** Marshall Reeves

**1. Approved 10/24/08 Minutes**

**2. Discussion: Discipline Specific Reading Tests & Learning Frameworks (Jeremy McMillen)**

- New course: Introduction to A&P added to Biology course list. It is suggested that students take the new intro class after taking Biology 1406/1407.
- HSC and Learning frameworks: Wendy Mays suggested that HSC adopt course to help them with lack of reading competency.

**3. Academic Report and SACS Convention (Jeremy McMillen)**

- Intensive Summer Program (ISP): The ISP grant will be ready for submission. The grant looks really good, it is three years instead of one. Last years' concentration was reading or math; there is no reading this year, only math. A 10-week course serving fifty students per year for three years. Athens and Palestine participate this summer. Learning frameworks will be layered on top of the 10 weeks. Students for last year had no gain in math or reading but it is not as bad as it sounds. 15 schools participated in this program and in the final analysis, TVCC was in the top third. Melissa Schilhab will run the reading program however, it is not covered by the grant. The second model is 5 weeks long, concepts of intermediate algebra and college algebra (Russell Self is the math instructor).

- Early College High School (ECHS): wants to expand from 25 freshmen to 50. They want 75 ninth and tenth graders on campus. The THEA tests scores are better than incoming freshman here at TVCC. Next semester computer science class will be added to the curriculum. Two hundred high school students may be on campus arriving in 4 to 5 school buses.

- Developmental Education Coordinator Meeting: Half of our incoming freshmen have developmental needs. Our Dev. class completion rate with a grade of D or better for the semester (IP means incomplete pass) are:

- 54% completed developmental math I and 56% completed developmental math II
- 59% of students completed intermediate math
- 70 to 78% completed developmental reading
- 73 to 77% completed dev. writing

- Blocked Classes: Data that should be considered regarding blocked classes is that developmental students are doing better than non-developmental students in some areas, yet classes may be blocked for them. What does class blocking mean? It makes no sense that science is not blocked.

- General Studies Center: The new center opens in the General Studies Building (old Technical Building) in the spring.

- SACS Annual Meeting: Jeremy and Tina are going to the SACS meeting this month. They should get clarification on the 5-Year report, and issues involving dual-credit. The 5-year report changes constantly. They have not addressed what will happen after we submit.

#### **4. Assessment Team Update, Reading Tests and CAAPS (Wendy Mays)**

- Discipline Specific Reading Tests: The Pre test numbers are not what we hoped. Only 575 students have tested. Students still experience some log on issues as well.

- Nursing Student Reading Test: Nursing students take the pre test in July so they may not be included in the spring and fall reports anymore.

- Reading Reports: IR will have them ready within 2 weeks unless teachers have some problem. If instructors need the report data before IR finishes and distributes, they should contact Wendy Mays.

- Reading Test Process: We need to look into how and when we test. Maybe having the pre-test count and evaluating student semester grades would have more meaning instead of their taking the post-test. In developmental classes, the post test is their final. We lose student interest by the time post test rolls around especially if they must take 3 or 4 reading tests during the same semester.

- CAAPS: Administered this week for Athens, Terrell, and Palestine campuses, all were math tests. Only 34 students took the test and our Goal was 80. The writing, reading, and critical thinking tests had better participation in the high 70's.

#### **5. Academy Update (Kay Pulley)**

Academies are going well. Freshman and Sophomore both have around 25 participants. There was one fish bowl with students a few weeks ago and it went very well.

#### **6. Learning Day 2009 Plans ( Kay Pulley)**

Learning Day is Friday, November 13, 2009. Date set so late because it was only day Dr. Ken Bain could come so we scheduled around his schedule. He is well worth the wait. An official invitation has been sent out. We will be devoting whole morning to Bain, the idea is to have a couple of breakout sessions around sections in his book. The speaker expense for learning day is \$7,000.

#### **7. Student Success Center (Rebecca Whitley)**

- Student Use: This was a great semester in the center; usage averaged 160 students a day. New Sunday hours have not caught on as well as planned. Evenings are very popular.

- New Equipment: The SSC now uses a touch screen and card reader for student logins. There were some problems with cards not reading properly but that turned out to be faulty ID cards.

- Student/Faculty Appreciation Day(s): Wednesday was appreciation day for students and faculty, we gave faculty that tutor for us a gift of a 1 gig flash drive and a pen with SSC name on them (good advertising tools). For students we had homemade cookies and milk, a survey and gift of a pen and flash drive for those participating in our survey. Next event will be in the spring – possibly popcorn and lemonade.

- Computer Use: We now turn students away some days because all computers are in use. Classes are reserving times to use the room. We may have to send some to the Library (but they require 24-hour notice). The center is becoming the gathering place for students on campus. Last semester teachers sat in the center for an hour and no students approached them; this semester one or more students visit each tutor. Some faculty tutors now bring their own groups.

### **8. Palestine (Eric Moseley)**

- The Learning Lab is still doing well, instructors and students both use them. There have been 119 students in November. There are 14 fulltime faculty and 13 volunteer their time. Next semester it will be 100%. Numbers are really good and it is all for tutoring.

### **9. CCSSE (Kay Pulley)**

- Area with little change is academic challenge. The next CCSSE will be in the spring. Hopefully we will see some gains. The testing will cost \$6,000. The Houston Endowment is helping us with the cost. CCSSE is usually done around March.

### **10. Invite Other Team Updates and/or Additional Discussions**

- Reading Testing: Be thinking about where we go with it, do we add more subjects as planned?

- Student Networking Project: Our efforts were not successful. It would have involved teachers completely changing their classes and they were understandably not eager to do so.

- Student Success Center: The SSC has been our biggest success.

### **11. Next Meeting Plans ????**