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Trinity Valley Community College SACS Reaffirmation Project Learning Initiative Council Meeting Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2005

Meeting held in Academic Building in the Conference Room between 2:00- 4:00 PM.

Learning Initiative Council Members

Present: Director Kay Pulley, Dean McMillen, Judy Callicoatt, Vicki Dossett, Linda Gann, Janet Lumpkin, Wanda Mayes, Eric Mosely, Rob Risko, Russell Self

Also Present: Andrea LaCross

1. Dean McMillen brought the meeting to order and asked the Council to review and approve LI meeting minutes from July 21, 2005.

Action Item: Council approved minutes

Kay Pulley and Dean McMillen updated the Council on action item from last meeting stating initiation of plans to build the Writing Team. Department Chair Bill Monds will be monitoring the team with assistance from Roberta Walden from the English/Language Department who has been involved with the evaluation and editing of the LEAPS project. Plans have begun for next year's execution of programming for the Writing Team.

2. The Fall In-Service for TVCC campuses was discussed. The program, Launching the Learning Initiative, is scheduled for August 22, 2005. Kay Pulley and Dean McMillen took the moment to give their appreciation to all those Council members who volunteered and dedicated their summer to the LI program. Point was made that the summer had been highly effective and through the Councils' continued participation and support the program was ready to be presented to the College community.

The original QEP statement was read and reviewed by the Council from February 2005.

Dean McMillen revealed to the Council the Fall In-Service; a 3-part program to include Vision, Discoveries and the Journey.

Kay Pulley shared that basic presentation technique should be utilized with a leaning towards the positive of the Vision. Team chairpersons were selected to construct a panel for the In-Service presentation.

Dean McMillen talked about the Vision of the LI and sharing those ideas with those in attendance and how it related to real life.

Eric Mosely suggested that a relationship might be drawn from previous In-Services and motivate towards a presentation based on that feedback of experience.

Judy Callicoatt added that the Council present opportunities to indicate what the LI was accomplishing.

Vicki Dossett listed several points to be made; i.e. drawing the needed baseline data, chronologically presenting the data and the ongoing process and continual movement forward.

Judy Callicoatt suggested that all initials used in the informational packets to be handed to participants be clarified.

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Russell Self stated that the participants' main questions would be, "What is the bottom line? How does it involve me? And what is required?"

Council discussed the line of questioning to be addressed during the presentation.

Kay Pulley replied that one of the previous meetings with Linda Gann had inspired an informational sheet to be compiled and would be used at the In-Service to gather data of interest and preferences of involvement. She also added that the Team chairpersons were continuing to recruit active membership to involve the various campuses in this endeavor.

In the Discoveries portion of discussion the CCSSE Report was reviewed.

Rob Risko asked about the report, its findings and the comparisons to other colleges.

Judy Callicoatt talked about the scores and the usage of verbiage in the survey and the interpretation by students. She related that in her opinion the terminology needed to be addressed.

Janet Lumpkin seconded the concern for comprehension of the survey. She asked if the Assessment Team might consider creating more specific questions geared to a local level.

Dean McMillen reminded the Council that data collected from whatever means is used, though creates questions and challenges, generally reveals patterns and norms to be compared. He added that it shows a broad sense of those things being analyzed.

Discussion continued by the Council concerning student perceptions, reality, comprehension levels, ratios, national and local norms.

Eric Mosely interjected that the students were challenged in understanding the surveys and therefore revealed a representation of the issues at hand.

Kay Pulley returned the Councils' attention to the vision and QEP statement and asked the Council "As we are working through this process, does this need to be revamped, the writing delayed and the words 'receive and discern' evaluated again. She posed the question, have we missed engagement?"

Dean McMillen agreed that it was a valid reason to revisit the QEP statement issue.

Action Item: Linda Gann suggested that the Council review QEP statement and email responses after consideration.

Kay Pulley asked if a "phase 2" needed to be put in place for engagement and asked the Council if it needed to consider a global statement and a specific statement. She added that the primary focus was student learning.

Engagement Team reported. Maps were distributed, committee development was discussed and the new Freshman Orientation project was updated by Janet Lumpkin. Dean McMillen added photo ethnography would be included in the project.

Student engagement was discussed by the Council.

Rob Risko asked the Council to define engagement and the crucial learning experience.

Discussion by Council as to terms of engagement, student responsibility, faculty involvement and future opportunities to address and formulate learning and engagement.

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Learning Academy reported. Maps were distributed, committee development and survey plans were discussed.

Linda Gann discussed recruitment for the Learning Academy to begin with the presentation of the Academy at the In-Service. Portfolios are to be compiled and team leaders and a mentoring program are being considered. After a question by Rob Risko asking what the LA was, Linda Gann read a prepared statement about research, teaching of best practices, student engagement, and the mission of the project.

Update Team was activated with Eric Mosely as Chair.

Announcement was made concerning the Technology Team chair, Terry Spurlock. Kay Pulley related that Terry Spurlock will begin compiling projects and team members.

3. Suggestion was made for Council to research possibilities in obtaining grant funds. Timberlawn Foundation was being considered to pursue for grant options.
4. The next scheduled LI Council meeting was put on hold until after the August 22, 2005 Fall In-Service. Council and specified teams needed time to prepare for In-Service presentation.

Dean McMillen queried Council to their satisfaction of proceeding with plans. Council approved.

Action Item: Kay Pulley asked Council to review materials presented during the meeting and to forward any questions, comments or concerns. She asked Council to read the article based on "No Child Left Behind" and included reference materials.

5. Meeting adjourned 4:30 PM.