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Trinity Valley Community College
SACS Reaffirmation Project
Learning Initiative Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes – September 30, 2005

Meeting held in LRC Building Room 245 from 2:00 - 5:00PM

Learning Initiative Council Members

Present: Director Kay Pulley, Dean McMillen, Vicki Dossett, Linda Gann, Janet Lumpkin, Wanda Mayes, Eric Mosely, Rob Risko, Terry Spurlock

Absent: Judy Callicoatt, Russell Self

Also Present: Andrea LaCross

1. The meeting was brought to order by Director Kay Pulley and the Council was asked to review and approve the LI minutes from the September 9, 2005 meeting.

Action Item: Minutes were approved with minor corrections.

2. New LI organizational charts and an updated LI team listing were presented to the Council for review and comments. Kay Pulley related that new members were volunteering and were being added “As we speak.”

Council continued to discuss issues pertaining to possibilities of overlapping team members, connections between all campuses, approval to contact those volunteers ready to be utilized.

3. Kay Pulley presented materials on Surry Community College for the Council to review. Similarities between SCC and TVCC were noted and the Reading outcomes were of interest to the Council.
4. Vicki Dossett summarized the visit from Dr. Sharon Pate, the Director of QEP for Central Texas College. Main points to the Lunch and Learn included: taking sections of TVCC textbooks to be adopted to a pre and post reading test administered to students, discussion of the LASSI test and the potential to utilize the program as a student assessment tool. It was stated that the LASSI is both diagnostic and prescriptive. Council continued discussion and the issue of cost was addressed. Vicki Dossett added that communication was continuing

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with Dr. Pate and if anyone had questions or thoughts, Dr. Pate welcomed the interaction.

Vicki Dossett then went on to relate that one of the items Dr. Pate had discussed, teaching study skills (how to read the textbook) to students in the classroom, had been requested already by faculty member Brian Bumgartner. The time taken proved to be of immediate value to students.

On another note, Kay Pulley reported follow up action from September 9, 2005 meeting minutes concerning contacting Gerald Wilson about tutoring. She related that tutoring was free at the Palestine and Terrell campus as they were funded by the Carl Perkins grant program. At the Athens campus, the federally funded TRIO program was used with certain requirements for participation.

Action item: Contact Dr. Jerry King concerning vocational monies for tutoring possibilities.

5. Assessment Team reported: The Pre-TASP reading testing on all campuses was complete and Dean McMillen reported that the preliminary data was now available for the Council. After a brief overview, discussion motivated towards the initial results revealing that students declaring AA degrees performed poorer than Certificate students on total number of correct items. However, caution was expressed as 30.4% of students did not declare a major. Also, the previous assumptions raised that 'critical reasoning and evaluation of written material' and 'writer's main point would show to be in the low end percentile. Preliminary results showed just the opposite.

Action Item: In light of research and assessment methods increasing in the future, Dean McMillen made a motion to the Council to consider whether capturing student email information at time of registration or at an available kiosk might prove beneficial. If approved, he would contact the Registrar's office and begin moving towards this goal.

Action Item: Council approved unanimously.

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Kay Pulley shared the letter sent to all testing faculty and discussed Post TASP Testing plans to be coordinated with all courses that were previously tested. Test dates will run from November 7th - 18th, 2005 on all campuses.

6. Engagement Team reported: Kay Pulley updated Council on the latest developments with the student focus group project for the LI and asked Andrea LaCross to brief the Council on the progress and the recent student meeting held September 27, 2005. Andrea LaCross reported that 80% of the students either showed or responded in some way to the project effort. Questions had been formulated and presented to the group for response and a statement sheet of all input from the meeting, email comments and summary input from all available journals were given to the Council for review and discussion.

A consistent comment throughout discussions and journaling by students was the lack of discipline, respect and dress ethics of students at TVCC. Terry Spurlock said that cases have been brought to his department in the past and it is difficult to evaluate a standardized action. Council members said that a few faculty members address those issues in their syllabi. Andrea LaCross asked the Council if specific courses were showing areas of discord and neglect or a specific student population was represented in these issues.

Knowledge and application of computer skill levels and engagement of students and faculty were also addressed by focus groups.

Action Item: Council to continue discussion and review of presented issues.

Janet Lumpkin discussed the options for the Instructional Summit. She referenced the IDEA Paper and the Council discussed whether the Engagement Team should handle the Summit project or if this was a potential project for the Learning Academy. Questions of topics, course work, identifying faculty members and timing of Summit were discussed.

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Action Item: Initialize plan for Summit and Dean McMillen will include list to be prepared of possible ideas and faculty to be contacted that could present.

Dean McMillen reminded the Council that in Spring 2006 there were hopes of activating a pilot program from the base of assessment and engagement ideas provided.

Discussion continued concerning the TVCC Engagement Survey. The short version of the Engagement Survey will be included on the Post-TASP reading tests for Fall and a longer version, which is currently being developed, will be included in the Pre-TASP testing to take place Spring of 2006.

7. Academy Team reported: Linda Gann related to Council that the first meeting of the Learning Academy was held in the Technical Building on September 21, 2005. The first portion consisted of introductions as several members in the Academy are from other TVCC campuses. The last portion was discussing ideas and current implementations of faculty members concerning student engagement. October 5, 2005 is the next scheduled Learning Academy meeting when Roberta Walden is expected to present materials on Rubric scoring.
8. Update Team reported: Kay Pulley began LI update information talking about a newly created campus-wide network posting, "In an LI Minute," which bullets the latest news of the Learning Initiative program. Eric Moseley is formulating plans to send monthly LI e-mail newsletters to all faculty and staff on all campuses detailing the involvement and updates of the Learning Initiative program.
9. Technology Team reported: Terry Spurlock addressed the Council about expectations of the newly created team and is corresponding and planning with the team members.

Discussion ensued with potentials of "blogging" and WebCT. Concerns with technology versus face to face course work and future aspects of student/faculty engagement were voiced by Council and potential solutions to issues.

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10. The Spring 2006 In-Service proposal was mentioned for brief discussion. Linda Gann has been contacted to present the Learning Academy proposal at the Staff Development Committee meeting. Plans continue to be formulated.
11. Next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2005.
12. Meeting adjourned at 5:00PM.