Basic Skills Initiative Steering Committee (BSISC) Minutes
Wednesday, November 9, 2011   2:30pm - 4:00pm
LC147

ATTENDEES
Susan Andrien, Cheo Massion, Jim Arnold, Luz Moreno, Rose Thompson

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION ON MATH 85/95 SUPPORT LAB / STUDY HALL

Laurie Ordin joined the meeting for the first 30 minutes to discuss a preliminary idea she and Jim had been discussing about creating a Math Study Hall for all Math85 and Math95 students. This study hall would be required of all students to attend, so that the students can practice math every day and complete their assigned homework with tutoring help. All sections would be required to participate.

Comments and Considerations:

• Other math programs/colleges have put in place courses where students are required to be on campus Monday through Friday to attend class and/or work in a Math study lab.
• It was discussed how some of our students would find it difficult to get to campus every day.
• Students report to counselors that the current Math85 experience is a difficult one, and many students choose to ‘take a break’ before going on to Math95.
• Math instructors feel that many students are not prepared to take Math85 – either lack the most fundamental skills and/or don’t understand the commitment of effort that is required.
• Physical space for this type of lab would be required in addition to the current Math Lab.
• The idea is a preliminary one and it has not yet been discussed with current Math instructors.
• The possibility of Instructional Specialist attending some of the math classes to service as “dedicated tutors” or ISs with focus on particular sections of Math85 or Math95 was discussed.
• The idea of crediting the Math Support with one credit unit was discussed.
• Discussion of professional development with the math faculty was touched on.
• Currently the pass rate of Math85 is 67%, and 20% of those students go on to Math95.
• The question was posed whether other models from other CCs exist that are more in-line with our college’s size. Comparative information would be useful to consider for this issue.

Other agenda items have been postponed until the next meeting on December 14. The committee discussed the possibility of a retreat in January to brainstorm and evaluate the remaining FY of funding of BSI.

Minutes Submitted on November 20, 2011 by Cheo Massion and edited/approved on December 13, 2011 by Susan Andrien.