

12/30/07

Title III Steering Committee Meeting

12/12/07: 12:30-2:30pm

Present: Brian Murphy, Christina Espinosa Pieb, Carolyn Keen, Gregory Anderson, Mary Alic Bonilla, Lydia Hearn, Barbara Illowsky, Michele LeBleu-Burns, Margaret Michaelis, Jerry Rosenberg, Rowena Tomaneng, Cheryl Woodward, Lisa Markus, Kristin Skager, Lisa Bartus, David Coleman, Diana Alves De Lima, Barbara Illowsky,

Unable to Attend: Marcy Betlach, Andrew LaManque

Members of the Committee introduced themselves.

President Brian Murphy spoke briefly about plans for future reorganization of College constituencies and the connection to Title III activities, the Basic Skills Initiative, and Strategic Planning activities.

Carolyn Keen briefly mentioned the first item on the agenda, the definition of the role of the Steering Committee as defined in the original 2006 Title III Grant Proposal and indicated that President Murphy, who had appointed members of the Steering Committee, had also approved this definition. (See 2006 Title III Proposal, 43-44)

Next Carolyn reviewed Title III activity progress to date: Because the award was made so late in the year (June 2007) for a grant proposal that was written in 2005 and submitted in June 2006, the College has already begun many projects the grant proposal identifies as key activities. Furthermore, since the Grant was written, both the Basic Skills Initiative and Strategic Planning Activities have become a major part of De Anza efforts that focus on retention for underprepared students, also the major focus of the 2006 Title III. Also, the grant award became official only in late June 07 when Fall schedules were already in place and when most faculty were preparing for summer break.. These factors have complicated efforts to get the Grant activities started exactly as outlined in the proposal.

In addition, Carolyn noted, we have not yet resolved budget issues such as pay for release time of faculty working on the Grant. Christina Espinosa Pieb explained that a resolution to this concern is forthcoming at the District level.

Carolyn explained that a major task of the Title III Activity right now is to hire a person to direct the Math Resource Center. Jerry Rosenberg, Dean of MPS, agreed to meet with key math faculty to determine what the Math Department wants and needs in this position, to begin crafting a job description, and to begin the hiring process.

Carolyn directed attention to the Title III Grant objectives which need review so that we can revise them as appropriate. (See pp. 19, 23, 24, 28, 29 of the Grant proposal.) Michele commented that we should be careful not to change the scope of the Grant and should not manipulate data. Other members noted that Objective #4 (p. 19) seems too ambitious because we cannot force or track integration of technology and best practices in developmental math and English courses. Another suggestion was that we incorporate focus on the Summer Bridge program and on First Experience.

Discussion next turned to the role of the Steering Committee. Rowena asked that committee members have a more precise definition of their role. Jerry and Diana each suggested that in addition to the large Steering Committee meetings, smaller groups of Steering Committee Members meet as appropriate to specific issues to help find solutions to specific problems. All agreed that the Steering Committee should meet at least twice a quarter with one meeting falling much earlier in the quarter. Carolyn raised the possibility of stipends for Steering Committee members, but the members present rejected the idea.