

Minutes for the ATD Meeting

January 14, 2013

The Achieving the Dream Core Team met on Monday, January 14, 2013, in Room 125 of the Logistics Center, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Core Team members present were Shirley Armstrong, Joy Knighton, Emmett Griswold, Regina Watts, Calvin Lee, Wendy Howell, Don Laye, Angela Davis, Vicki Tucker, Debra Jones, Mendi Warren, Lisa De Jesus, Virginia Parker, and student representative/SGA president, Aamir Greene.

Ms. Armstrong welcomed everyone and introduced Mr. Greene. The purpose of the meeting was to concentrate on focus groups. There was an open discussion on how to proceed. The Data Team has agreed on these five areas with each to be addressed in focus groups:

1. Gateway Courses
2. Online vs. Traditional Classes
3. Deadlines
4. Communication
5. Advisement

The Data Team will be responsible for the focus groups relating to Gateway Courses and Online vs. Traditional Classes. Ms. Tucker asked that the Core Team form and direct focus groups for the other three topics. It was determined the focus groups should be composed of successful and unsuccessful students in these different areas to achieve a balanced approach.

Ms. Armstrong explained the ramifications of deadlines as they relate to financial aid and a broad spectrum of impact. Communication includes returning calls and emails by instructors, orientations either at the college level and/or by program, the distinction between mandatory and strongly recommended, telling the ATD story, and involving students.

In regard to advising, Ms. Armstrong stressed that advising is not just registration. With the use of academic plans, advisors should see their student advisees four times a term.

Ways to determine focus group participants were discussed. A mixture of successful and unsuccessful students should be included in each group. Purposeful sampling might take into consideration student histories as indicators, grades, SAP, late registration, late filing for financial aid, and late applications in admissions. Each focus group should be comprised of no

more than 6-10 people. Incentives to participate were suggested from gift cards to free lunch in the Titan Café. The wording of the questions will be very important. Some focus groups may be organized for spring semester, but they will be ongoing as part of the ATD Implementation Plan.

Ms. Warren presented the Data Team findings in regard to Gateway and online vs. traditional courses. The most frequently failed courses during 2012 Fall Semester were COMP 1000, EMPL 1000, ENGL 1010, PSYC 1010, and MATH 1012. These same courses were then compared by delivery method: online or traditional. This data revealed mixed results (See the attached documents in the minutes' notebook for detailed analysis.)

Ms. De Jesus summarized the Student Engagement Report. A preliminary survey involving over 300 students targeted the greatest barriers to student success with financial aid being #1 and childcare, #2 (See the attached document in the minutes' notebook for the full report.)

Everyone was asked to think about the best way to proceed with the focus groups before the next meeting. The meeting was then adjourned.