

Minutes of the USG Learning Support Directors' Meeting
April 3, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Terry Irvin, Chair, Learning Support Advisory Committee.

Dr. Tim Floyd, Conference Chair, gave an update on the 2004 Conference. Over 200 people registered for the conference and he expected at least 20 more to register late.

Dr. Floyd further related that the management at the Buccaneer Resort was currently addressing problems with rooms and reservations. Some of the problems resulted from the recent sale of the resort and a change in the computer system.

Dr. Irvin described her discussions with the ACT representatives concerning the Directors' petition for an online practice test for all COMPASS areas. ACT had originally said that it would develop a web-based test although it would have to do so in steps. Dr. Irvin distributed the March 4, 2004 letter from Barbara Endel of ACT that described a PDF format that was developing rather than the web-based format the Directors had requested. Dr. Irvin said that she would get back with ACT to find out if this was simply a stopgap measure until a web-based practice test could be developed.

Dr. Burk distributed several system reports: incoming freshmen needing Learning Support courses; percentage of former Learning Support students earning passing grades in core courses for which LS courses are a prerequisite; graduation reports. She discussed the status of the online COMPASS and the online Regents' Test. The COMPASS web-based test should be released soon. There will probably be a number of "bugs" in the new form that will take time to correct. The online Regents' Test was piloted by a twelve few institutions. While there were some glitches, the reviews by both the students and the test administrators takers were generally positive.

The new 5-attempts policy was discussed. Dr. Irvin polled the institutions to see how many were adopting the 5th attempt and how many were allowing additional courses with the 4th attempt. Several were allowing a 5th attempt and allowing additional courses. Some institutions had made no changes on the original policy. A few had adopted the 5th attempt but were not allowing additional courses on the 4th attempt.

Jackie Thornberry, Perimeter College, requested consideration for an additional math course. After much discussion, the Directors voted to petition for a change in Administrative Procedures for Learning Support, section 2/2.09.02, IVE Requirements, in the Academic Affairs Handbook to the following: "All Learning Support Programs must be designed so that students can complete all requirements in an area in a maximum of two semesters." This change is requested to allow more flexibility in designing programs to meet student needs, but does not change program requirements.

The election of new members to the Executive Board members followed: Jackie Thornberry, Cindy Craig, and Kris Larson were elected.

