

Learning Support Director's Meeting

Saturday, March 31, 2007

Sea Palms Inn

The Annual Learning Support Director's meeting was called to order at 1:40 by Chairperson Francesca Taylor (Francie). Francie extended a brief welcome to the directors present (see attached). Each director then introduced him/herself.

CONFERENCE UPDATE:

Francie asked Jackie Thornberry, Conference Chairperson, to provide a Conference Update. To date, a total of 29 state schools and 4 private schools have registered, with a total of 230 participants. Rob Mott will be serving as our Keynote Speaker on Sunday evening.

LEARNING SUPPORT RELATED ISSUES:

Update of LS Equivalency Charts: Jackie spoke briefly about the "Equivalency Chart" and its update. She would send it via e-mail, and if there were no changes, no response was needed, but please update/submit changes, as necessary. The chart would provide such information as:

Institution	Institution Contact (Name, Tel, e-mail)	COMPASS Test Scores	Learning Support Courses Offered	COMPASS EXIT Scores	Grade(s) for Learning Support Courses	# of Attempts allowed by Institution
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Suggestion: The number of staff and enrollment breakdown should be added to chart.

Learning Support Annual Reports: Jackie reported that she had had a conversation with Dorothy Zinmeister in regard the submission/ discontinuation of the LS Annual Report. As of now, the annual report has been discontinued.

Course Outcomes (Math/English/Reading): The next order of business was the discussion of (common) outcomes for the following subjects: Math, English, and Reading. It was decided that a committee would be established to work on the outcomes. Committee Chairs selected include:

Tonya Strickland	English
Melanie Thornton	Reading
Cindy Craig	Math

The committee chairs would select a time to meet and discuss further with committee members the common outcomes for each subject area. It was suggested committees discuss this topic in detail during the scheduled conference breakout sessions.

Questions/Concerns Submitted for Discussion:

1. Richard Baskin (Gordon College) had raised a question concerning students receiving the "D" grade in Learning Support courses, and being able to move to the next course level. There was a brief discussion. This would depend on the institution, but most institutions consider the grade of C (70 or higher) as the passing grade. The grading scale in a number of institutions is S or U.

2. Transfer Credit for core classes despite CPC/LS placement. This would be dependent on the number of transfer credits. For example, if a student is transferring the maximum number of credits, and has met the LS requirement, placement may not be required in a LS course.
3. “Auto” Re-Test Policy for Learning Support EXIT? There are no “across the board standards.” On most campuses, a re-test is dependent on final course grade AND Test score. If a student has a “good” grade in a class and tests within 5 points of the “EXIT score,” a re-test is generally granted.
4. Why the change from 4 hours to 3 hours? Is 4 better than 3? There was no data to support the statistics, but the changes were made to support registration purposes basically. For example, a student enrolled for 3 hours is eliminated from a number of student fees.

-- 10 Minute Break --

5. Possible substitution of Math Courses for students with disabilities? Following the break, Dr. (Sandra) Stone (Board of Regents representative) discussed the topic of “Possible MATH Course Substitutions” for students with disabilities. A Logics course (possibly) could be used as a substitute for the “required” math course, but it must be a course that is currently being offered at the institution. However, criteria for an acceptable course and/or student must be discussed/determined. More information will be discussed during the Learning Disabilities Advisory Meeting on April 18. It is strongly “believed” testing is a barrier for the difficulty.
6. Leslie Caldwell (Board of Regents representative) provided an overview regarding the validation/acceptance of COMPASS Scores from other schools/testing sites. Leslie stated COMPASS Scores may be accepted from any **authorized** testing site. However, method of testing, testing site and number of times test(s) taken must be verified. Scores may be received via e-mail, transcript, tele-message, and/or letter – method/score must be verified and confirmed.
7. Concern over “success” of learning support programs at 2-year colleges. There was a brief discussion about requirements? testing? And how is success defined?
8. Passing of high school graduation exam indicating “college and work ready.” Meeting with DTAE, USG and DOE representatives -- by 2010, all high school students completing the graduation exam -- in the state of Georgia -- should be “college and work ready.”

Issues about high school requirements currently being addressed?

- * required number of courses: Math (4), English (4), Science (4), P.E. (1), Foreign Language, etc.
- * getting away from 2-tiered diploma
- * NOT lowering admissions standards

For additional information, see America Diploma Project Network (Google)

9. **REGENTS' TEST-RELATED ISSUES (Leslie Caldwell)**

Leslie discussed the status of the "Regents' Testing" topic ... Right now, test is going "nowhere." Current requirements and scores for testing exemption:

Reading:	SAT-Verbal (510+)	ACT-Reading (23)
Essay:	SAT –Writing (650+)	Int'l HS Bacc (4) AP (3)

"Tiered" Options for dealing with the test:

- 45 hrs, 1 time
- failed 3-5 times, Individualized class
- "chronic" repeaters, 1:1 Instruction

Testing for ESL students was briefly discussed.

Discussion will be continued 5 months, may be up to 18 months as to "what to do/ how to change the testing process". One concern/problem is the course is basically the same – whether you've had the test one time or 8 times. At the system level, there is concern ... "assessment necessary for accountability."

Sandra (Stone) interjected discussion regarding the "white paper" project ... presentation of testing, benefits, pros & cons of assessment measure ... there is the question of what is a good, fair assessment measure? Strategic Plan...we should "stay tuned."

In closing, Jackie briefly discussed a "pilot program" being led by Dorothy Zinmeister in which volunteer sites are needed. For starters, all entering students will be required to take a Math Entry Test, then subdivided by performance level, etc. For further details, and if interested, contact Jackie.

Sandra (Stone) addressed the concern raised in regard to "unproctored on-line testing" ... see BOR Policy Manual (update)/ Academic Handbook.

Other Business:

2008 Learning Support Conference?

Sea Palms (most likely) is the site, but up for discussion

2008 Conference Co-Chairs: Francie Taylor and Tonya Strickland.

2009 Conference Chair: Open

Jackie will serve as Chair, Learning Support Directors' Meeting (2007-08)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Beverley Richardson Blake
Beverley Richardson Blake, Secretary
Valdosta State University

LEARNING SUPPORT DIRECTORS' MEETING

ATTENDANCE

Saturday, March 31, 2007

INSTITUTION

Albany State University
Albany State University
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Atlanta Metro College
Augusta State University
Bainbridge College
Board of Regents
Board of Regents/ Regents' Testing Office
Clayton State University
Coastal Georgia Community College
Columbus State University
Dalton State University
Darton College
East Georgia College
Fort Valley State University
Gainesville State College
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Gwinett College
Georgia Highlands College
Georgia Perimeter College
Georgia Southern University
Georgia Southwestern
Georgia Technical Institute
Gordon College
Kennesaw State University
Macon State College
North Georgia College & State University
Savannah State University
South Georgia College
South Georgia College
University of Georgia
University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University
Waycross College

REPRESENTATIVE

Flo J. Hill
Rosalyn Jones
Lottie Scott
Joan Clark
Cynthia M. Craig
Tonya Strickland
Sandra Stone
Leslie Caldwell
Mark Daddona
Ricky Ann Weaver
Randall Casleton
Vince Postell
Melanie Williams Thornton
Mark Dallas
Rosie W. Petties
Carol Howard
Sherry Jones
Mary Greiss-Shipley
Diane Langston
Jackie Thornberry
Janet O'Brien
Lynda Lee Purvis
Carole E. Moore
Richard Baskin
Tonya Jones
Larry Fennelly
Todd Campbell
Joan Maynor
Mike Fisher
Lori Seward
Earl J. Ginter
Francie Taylor
Beverley Richardson Blake
Sara Selley