Basic Skills Committee

February 14, 2012

Islam Ayyad (SGA Rep), Jason Berner, John Gregorian, Elvia Ornelas-Garcia, Helen Kalkstein, Ellen Smith, Kenyetta Tribble, Andrea Phillips, Luanna Waters, Jennifer Crowell (Guest), Nooshi Borhan, Ariana Gutierrez, Mayra Padilla, Sherry Sharufa

Meeting Started at 2:30pm

Sherry Sharufa briefly talked about why she decided to take on role of chair. She hopes to improve communication with other groups that have the same goal in order to more effectively use resources.

Sherry quickly highlighted how much we have left in the budget for 11-12 ($93,925). It is expected that we will spend about $60,000 with tutoring and FYE ending the year with a little over $30,000.

The current projects that BSI is involved in include FYE, tutoring, reading apprenticeship, a research project looking at student retention. There needs to be a discussion about how Umoja will be reworked. Kenyetta said that this is a topic at the African American Staff Association meeting scheduled for Wednesday February 15th. Right now Morgan Lynn is teaching a section for Umoja, and a section of English 142 has been assigned for the summer. Brandin will be the instructor.

A challenge for Umoja is that there is a lack of funding, and the method for sustaining the program needs to be defined. Mayra Padilla mentioned something about an ACE model which she can provide information about.

Jennifer Crowell talked about the Gateway to College grant. The grant targets young adults (16-21) who have dropped out or are unlikely to graduate. The students will be enrolled in basic skills classes and Jennifer needs faculty to teach these sections. Jennifer is looking to have students begin in the fall of 2012. Elvia and Sherry will need to meet with Jennifer at another time to discuss in further detail.

Ellen Smith talked about the California Acceleration project and showed some positive statistics about why we should pursue acceleration. The committee is going to try to get Tom Dewitt and Tom McFarland from Chabot who are very involved with acceleration to give us more detail, and answer questions. There is a support system in place to help colleges with acceleration but there is an application and a quickly approaching deadline (March 31st), so a decision must be made.

Next meeting: February 28th to focus on acceleration and next steps.