

**LAS POSITAS COLLEGE
BASIC SKILLS COMMITTEE
(BaSk)
September 22, 2014
*Minutes***

1. Present: Paula Schoenecker, Jeanne Virgilio, Frances Hui, Jonathan Brickman, Heike Gecox, Jennie Graham, Brandon Byrne (student rep), Guest: Kristy Woods. Absent: Rajinder Samra

2. *Review of current and projected budget allocations. (Paula)*

Natasha's notes from the August meeting reflect the following:

Coordination	\$ 22,000
Tutorial center	\$ 35,000
Math Jam	\$ 15,000
Smart Pens	\$ 2,636 (order placed)
Strengthening Student Success conf	\$ 4,000
Tutor Lingo	\$ 1,000 (order completed)
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	\$ 79,636

Additional Basic skills readers	\$ 5,000
Learning express	\$ 3,000
Cheri Morrell + hours (5 hrs./wk.* \$25/hr.* 4 weeks*4 months)	\$ 2,000
Embedded counseling	????
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	\$ 89, 636

Remaining allocation from 2014-2015
\$ 90,000

3. *Math Jam update (Kristy)*

Kristy et al has decided to hold math jams only in spring and fall at this point.

- Marketing is starting to go out. Signup information will be seen closer to early admissions for spring. She will be making videos to promote it with students in order to get other students involved.
- Suggestion was made to get instructors to post a saved message on whiteboards about math jam with a countdown to sign up. In the future it can be put on math syllabi.

- We have a website (www.laspositascollege.edu/mathjam)
- Thanks to Pauline we have tutors all lined up with a wait list of interested tutors. Students will sign up through class web. The college can collect FTES
- CTE is funding the transfer level classes and BaSk will fund the prealgebra through intermediate algebra sessions. We have room for 15 students per level.
- Kristy asked if we had money should more students want to join. The cost is about \$350/per 3 students. The group agreed that at least 3 more per session would be fine. We will reconvene if students show an overwhelming interest.
- Funding sources are still being considered for food.

4. Presentation on “Learning Express” for possible purchase through BSI funds (Frances)

Frances reviewed a demo from the Learning Express website.

- The committee was very interested in the parts that claimed they could be used for preparation to take the Accuplacer placement test. There was also academic skill building activities for reading, writing and math, as well as a career planning and employment section.
- Current modes of practice using this tool were primarily learning modules (text based description of “how to”) and quizzes. No multimedia/interactive venue at this point. But there was a personal portfolio to create to keep track of your work.
- We would pay for this to be offered through the library and free to students. They could access it anywhere online by logging in with their W #. The cost is around \$3500/yr.
- The group was a little concerned that the accuplacer prep contains a single pool of questions instead of a random draw of questions. Students may just “learn to the test”.
- We can run usage reports to see if the money is worth it. Frances will provide a link and code so that we all can experience it.

5. Discussion of need for additional tutorial center coordination. Review of discussion regarding embedded counseling for basic skills math classes (Paula)

Paula discussed that she had a meeting with Barbara Morrissey and Pauline Trummel regarding more coordination coverage in the tutorial center now that we are funding new projects. Pauline is reporting a record number of requests for tutors this semester. We also want to begin supplemental instruction using the Smart Pens and to consider even more tutors for the embedded tutors program is math x. Pauline also wants to look into the metacognition training for tutors through the Learning Well project. Paula said that one idea that has surfaced is to hire another adjunct faculty member to Co-coordinate the center with Pauline. Pauline would still be primary, but this person would provide back-up. The idea of waiting for a full-time position through the faculty prioritization process was tenuous and may jeopardize Pauline’s position.

The group was adamant that we should be working towards getting a full time coordinator and that Pauline’s position should be upgraded. This discussion segued into #6-- the need to continue the tutorial center workgroup from last year. Jonathan and Kristy led the discussion that we did need to continue meeting in order to make the administration and all others aware that we need a full time coordinator and to have a say in how that happens, among other things.

Paula said that in a meeting with Jan Noble over the summer, Jan felt we should go to the Academic Senate to become an official “group” so that the workgroup’s mission could be sanctioned and followed by senate and the workgroup’s decisions able to be implemented and financed through regular campus processes.

7. End of year report input (2012-2013). Request of explanation of issues with the reporting for ESL.

The Basic skills coordinator’s meeting from last May was again reviewed. Paula will be writing up the end of the year report. She asked Jonathan for clarification of why it was difficult to accurately report the achievement of ESL students. Jonathan brought up several points.

- Because of a letter from the district telling ESL students that they HAD to provide a social security number in order to register, many non-legal students got scared off and enrollment is down. The faculty in the ESL department is upset that the trust that they have worked to build will now have to be re-built.
- Jonathan indicated that the ESL faculty would like to see embedded counseling for its students to make sure they are placed in the right course and to make them fully understand their options as college students. They would like improved marketing and outreach for ESL students to bring them back.
- The ESL program would also like to see assessment center procedures improved. They have come to learn that identification is not always required and some students have been taking the test for others.
- Paula mentioned that ESL is an area that the state would like to see BSI support this year and that we should look into ways to provide whatever that faculty feel they may need to increase retention and success. Frances indicated that the library has always maintained a beginning reader inventory of books specifically for ESL students and English students with lower reading levels. She requested money to update this collection and the consensus was positive.
- The committee requested that Barbara Morrissey be present at the next meeting to continue this discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30/ Next meeting is Monday, October 27.

Respectfully submitted by

Paula Schoenecker with notes from Jennie Graham