SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE

Research Committee - Summary
Meeting of Tuesday, September 13, 2011
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room B-104

PRESENT: Heidi Bunkowske, David Fierro, Minou Spradley, Peter White, Xi Zhang

STAFF: Desiree van Saanen

I. REPORT FROM XI ZHANG – 2011 CITY COLLEGE FACT BOOK

The 2011 City College Fact Book was distributed for the committee’s review. Xi Zhang explained that last year’s document was used as a template; then updated to reflect current data. It was further explained that total enrollments reflect City and ECC combined, as well as online and off-campus course enrollments.

The committee discussed the accreditation implications of combining enrollment totals. How do we discern between ECC and City College students if students are enrolled in both City and ECC sections? Is it by preponderance of units? Peter indicated it may be beneficial to know whether the trends and goals of ECC students differ significantly from those of City College students because of the Accreditation Commission’s expectations of equal quality of instruction and services. Xi will look into these questions and provide details at the next meeting. Heidi Bunkowske indicated it would be beneficial for City College to have a prominent place (webpage & chart) for media to go to in order to check the City College/ECC combined enrollment since ECC’s credit courses are administered as City College offerings.

Committee members observed that enrollment statistics by unit (pp. 18 and 19 of the Fact Book) seem to indicate that students enrolled in fewer units than full-time tend to be slightly more successful in terms of units completed. In fact, students enrolled in over half time but less than full time appear to do best statistically. Focused research in this area may lend support to encouraging students to take slightly less than a full load; students enrolling in 12+ units may actually reduce their chances of success, especially when other conditions, such as poverty, are factored in. It was noted that the poorest students may opt to take a full load in order to receive more aid and to save money by finishing college as quickly as possible. Peter suggested that the committee look into the number of students that are receiving financial aid, and compare their completion rates in relation to enrollment status (i.e., full time, part-time, three-quarter time enrollment). Peter further recommended that the statistics go back 3-5 years and be reported using the same table/format that is used on page 19 of the Fact Book. Xi will follow up.
II. TRAINING-THE-TRAINER PLANNING:

Minou asked whether the committee is ready to begin development of a research subgroup, as was discussed at the last committee meeting in May 2011. It was recommended that a small group of faculty and staff with recent experience in using research data for SLOs, program review, etc. meet to discuss the criteria of trainers and to identify a group of individuals, from various disciplines and who have research backgrounds or who have requested data for research purposes. In the next two weeks, before the Research Committee meets in October, Peter will call a planning meeting to include Xi Zhang, Dotti Cordell, Berta Harris, David Fierro, and Minou Spradley. *(NOTE: This meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room B-104).*

III. RESEARCH UPDATES AND REQUESTS:

**College Reports and Agenda Updates:**

Xi reported that the *2011 Basic Skills Report* is almost ready for posting. She will deliver the report to the Basic Skills Committee on Friday (9/16/11), and have the BSI Committee to pick up one or two pieces of information from the report to have in-depth discussions. Xi suggested to choose the two research pieces of the supplemental report provided by the Chancellor’s Office. Once she receives the committee’s approval and the report is published, the Basic Skills Committee will schedule a college-wide briefing to have focused discussions on the selected research pieces.

The results of the *Cultural Climate Survey* are ready to be shared with the Diversity Committee. Once she conducts briefing with the committee, the committee will conduct a college-wide briefing and form an action plan to address the research findings.

This summer, Xi finalized a *report for the Tutoring and English Centers*. The report includes information on student outcomes, i.e., retention rates, success rates, and persistence rates. The students who received tutoring services were compared to the students who did not receive tutoring services. In general students receiving tutorial services performed better than the non-tutoring students. In addition, cohort tracking was conducted to examine the subsequent enrollment of math and English basic skills students. Mixed results were reported. Xi anticipates the report will be added to the college’s research agenda and be performed on an annual, ongoing basis.

Xi noted that City’s research agenda still needs to be finalized.
III. RESEARCH UPDATES AND REQUESTS (continued):

District Research Committee – Update

Xi reported that District Research is looking into distributing Employee and Student Satisfaction Surveys in Spring 2012. Committee members discussed the timing and agreed, given the deadline for the Accreditation Midterm Report in 2013, the survey should be distributed in Fall 2012. Xi will check with the district to confirm the timelines for these surveys.

Fall 2011 Meetings (meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 12:30-2:00 p.m.):

September 13 ✓
October 11
November 8
December 13