I. REPORT FROM XI ZHANG

Xi Zhang distributed two five-year crosstabs (2006-2010) demonstrating the units attempted by units earned rate of City College and ECC students receiving financial aid. Xi clarified that students enrolled at multiple colleges within the district are counted once for each campus. However, for the reports that combine City and ECC, if one student is enrolled in both City College and ECC courses, they are counted only once for both campuses (non-duplicative). The report shows students’ unit completion rate (earning a “C” or better) is highest when they enroll in 6-9 units (between 50-54-percent units-earned rate over five years). For students taking 9.0 – 11.9 units earned over the same five years the rate of earning the units attempted is 44-48 percent, and for the 12+ units category the success rate is 45-49 percent. Statistics further indicate that financial aid students had slightly lower rates of earning units attempted when compared to City College general student population. The difference is more pronounced for students who attempted lower number of units.

It was noted that the federal government requires students to achieve a 67-percent success rate for financial aid eligibility. Currently, the district standard (to avoid progress and/or academic disqualification) is 60 percent. District SSC is currently discussing strategies and complications of changing our standard to the federal model. Peter will keep us posted.

Committee members discussed the possibility of separating ECC from City students in order to identify “pure” ECC students; thus, isolating any trends or statistics that are unique to the ECC student. The purpose in conducting a separate report would help us in understanding the reason(s) pure ECC students do not attend City College—whether it is due to limited resources (lack of money, transportation, childcare, etc.) or other conditions. Students who are unable to attend City College courses are generally also unable to take higher-level, transfer courses and take advantage of student support resources. Xi will compile statistics for the “pure” ECC group and share with committee members at next month’s meeting.
II. TRAINING-THE-TRAINER PLANNING:

Peter indicated he received from Berta and Dotti a list of instructors who have utilized research tools in their program assessments. A meeting will be called before the end of the semester to include these instructors, as well as a core group from the Research Committee, to discuss incentives for encouraging other faculty to share, learn, and develop research strategies for implementation in their own departments. Offering flex credit for participation may be one such incentive.

Committee members discussed the possibility of consolidating several committees—the Research, Professional Development, Title V, and Basic Skills Committees—into one comprehensive Student Success Committee wherein overlapping interests and objectives could be discussed in a more uniform and streamlined way.

III. RESEARCH UPDATES AND REQUESTS:

College Reports and Agenda Updates:

- Xi reported that the 2011 Basic Skills Report is posted on the District Research website. The Basic Skills Committee held a college-wide briefing on September 30; approximately 20 people were in attendance. Unfortunately, there were no representatives from Counseling and Matriculation present. Xi will hold separate meetings with these groups to apprise them of the report’s findings. She will meet with the counselors on October 12.

- The results of the Cultural Climate Survey were shared with the Diversity Committee. Once she conducts briefing with the committee. She is waiting to hear back from the committee’s chairperson to begin preparations for a college-wide briefing and to form an action plan.

- Xi distributed and reviewed with committee members the online Table of Contents for the City College/ECC High School Pipeline Report. The report is also posted on the District Research website. The report will be shared with counselors and matriculation representatives when she meets with them to review the BSI report.

Research Agenda:

The Research Agenda has been finalized and is posted.

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

November 8 and December 13