SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE

Research Committee - Summary
Meeting of Tuesday, March 08, 2011
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room B-104

PRESENT: Heidi Bunkowske, David Fiero, Berta Harris, Eric Sandoval, Peter White, Xi Zhang

STAFF: Desiree van Saanen

I.    BRIC-TAP

The next BRIC technical team meeting is scheduled for March 31. They will meet with the Research Committee at 1:00-2:30 p.m. and with Program Review pilot participants, (Mary, Dotti, and Berta) at 2:30 p.m.

II. Research Requests - HUBU

Xi indicated that Nesha Savage’s proposal states that she may need assistance from Institutional Research for HUBU program evaluation, but the proposal gave no indication of what kind of assistance/data she might need. Xi clarified that as an “internal investigator,” Nesha could acquire the specific data she is looking for without a proposal for IRB review, as long as the data is not used for publication, for instance, dissertation purposes. If she wishes to use the data for a dissertation at a later date, she would then need to obtain approval from the IRB at that time. Xi reviewed two instruments included in the proposal. Peter will find out from Nesha how she plans to process the data gleaned from the interviews and from conducting a focus group study.

III. College Research Agenda and Priorities

Xi distributed copies of City’s current College-wide Research Agenda for review and discussion. Several projects are underway including annual tasks devoted to program review, which include the collection of enrollment and productivity data for disciplines. Xi has prepared the data and it has been forwarded to the respective discipline chairs via Mary Benard.

Xi is also responding to discipline-specific ad hoc requests, including a request from the Biology Department to collect and review program data at the CRN level. The intention of the request is to see student outcomes in the Biology classes, subsequent enrollment and success in higher level Biology classes, and whether student success in the higher levels of Biology leads to success in the Nursing program. Committee members discussed the need to conduct content-related assessments and whether TEAS assessments could be used as a possible resource.
III. College Research Agenda and Priorities (continued)

Xi and her counterparts at Mesa are continuing to assess data gleaned from pilot accelerated courses in English. English 265B is a prerequisite for English 101 and has been piloted for 2 semesters. Xi reported that the retention and success outcomes for English 265B are positive thus far, and it is anticipated to be approved as a regular course by Fall, 2011. Xi is also looking at a math accelerated course. However, data from the accelerated Math 34A is less conclusive in that the retention rates are high but the success rates (students passing with “P”, “A”, “B”, or “C”) are relatively low. Xi will review the entrance levels and other pertinent data with Professor Misael Camarena to see if a definitive correlation can be identified. It was noted that Math 34A in its accelerated mode, while it is a prerequisite to Math 38, is designed to prepare students for the higher-level Math 48. Peter asked how many of the Math 34a sections were actually accelerated; he thought it was just one.

Xi reported that she is working with Lance Soukhaseum (Tutoring Center) to track the success of students from elementary to higher-level math courses. They will look at and compare the outcomes of students who utilize tutoring services against the outcomes of students who do not. Lance is in the process of gathering data specific to the Tutoring Center for this review.

Xi was recently contacted by a representative of the Urban Housing Partners requesting data regarding zip-code specific populations. She was able to refer him to available resources at the District Research website. The organization is researching the possibility of building student dorms.

An annual report to The National Science Foundation is underway. Xi indicated that the NSF requests a report each year, but she is unsure whether the organization provides funding to the college. Xi will clarify this with Mary Benard. The report is due in April.

Xi also helped with reviewing the assessment tools and workshop content that Ray Wong developed for the collaboration between counselors and basic skills classes.

IV. District Research Committee – Update

During a recent Research Committee meeting, BRIC representatives inquired whether the District’s Office of Institutional Research maintained its own “Research Agenda.” It was noted that it does not maintain its own research agenda but rather supports and responds to the colleges’ requests/agendas. The District’s Institutional Research is additionally responsible for preparing Board Reports, as well as reports requested by Chancellor’s Cabinet.
IV. District Research Committee – Update (continued)

Xi further reported that District Research Committee members reviewed the District Strategic Plan and updated goals. They also finalized the Campus Climate Survey Report, which should soon be ready for distribution. The District Research is also working on this year’s District’s Annual Transfer Report.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 12
12:30-2:00 p.m.
Room B-104

Reminder: Special Meeting of Research Committee & BRIC-TAP
Thursday, March 31
1:00-2:00pm
B-104