

Berkeley City College

**Leadership Council Meeting**

**MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

*Chair: Debbie Budd, President*

**Attendees:** Debbie Budd, Fabian Banga, Antonio Barreiro, M. Katherine Bergman, Ramona Butler, May Chen, Paula Coil, Carlos Cortez, Windy Franklin, Mostafa Ghous, Roberto Gonzalez, Brenda Johnson, Jenny Lowood, Shirley Slaughter, Cleavon Smith, Gabe Winer, Hermia Yam, Alley Young, Adán Olmedo, Cynthia Reese

**Agenda Review:**

Dr. Budd reviewed today’s meeting agenda which is dedicated to a presentation by Ms. Eva Schiorring from the RP Group. The discussion topic is, “Student Support Redefined - Six Success Factors.

Dr. Budd reported that we will talk about Berkeley City College’s plan to help students be successful. We have some great ideas but it is also important to connect with the students for feedback on:

* Are we on the right track
* What’s going well
* What things will help you feel connected, engaged, supported, and directed

Dr. Budd indicated that there are six factors that Ms. Schiorring will share with us. It is right in line with our goals of helping students be more successful for transfer and Career Technical Education and, moving from foundation skills to transfer level. Ms. Schiorring will share some of the research that has been done across the state through the RP group. It was noted that some attendees may have also seen another report done by the RP Group on Integrating Student Transformation Support and Accelerated Learning in the classroom. Berkeley City College was one of the participants because of what is being done with PERSIST.

The meeting was turned over to Ms. Schiorring who provided background on the RP Group. The RP Group is a nonprofit group, founded 21 years ago by researchers and planners throughout the California Community Colleges. Their mission is to increase and accelerate the use of the data; the way data is being used and analyzed to support student success at all levels of the California community College system. They seek to achieve the mission by conducting research and evaluations and by providing special development and technical assistance services.

Ms. Schiorring began her presentation to Leadership Council attendees. The action guide “Exploring Ways to Strengthen Student Support at Your College” was distributed. She provided background on success factors and the collection of feedback from students.

The six success factors were discussed by Ms. Schiorring who first asked attendees what made them successful as students:

Some of the responses were:

* Having a role model
* Not being successful the first time
* Having a mentor; someone taking an interest in them
* Writing support

She then summarized the six success factors:

1. Directed: Students have a goal and know how to achieve it
2. Focused: Students stay on track-keeping their eyes on the prize
3. Nurtured: Students feel somebody wants helps them to succeed
4. Engaged: Students actively participate in class and extracurriculars
5. Connected: Students feel like they are part of the college community
6. Valued: Students skills, talents, abilities and experiences are recognized; they have opportunities to contribute on campus and feel their contributions are appreciated.

***Directed***

In the survey, students were asked what makes them feel directed. The overall message received was to see the connection between what goes on in the classroom and the world outside; the connection between their life and college success.

*Highlights from Student Perspectives Research, begin on page 22*

***Focused***

When asked about what motivates them to attend their classes, participants rated several reasons as very important including the desire to pass the class and wanting to get a good grade in the class. When asked why they might miss a class, survey participants most commonly cited as very important, the need to care for family, followed by the need for work.

Ms. Schiorring stated we need to help students retain their motivation.

*Highlights from Student Perspectives Research, begin on page 26*

***Nurtured***

This basically means feeling that somebody really wants them to be successful and wants to help them be successful. What is particularly interesting about this success factor is that small things make a huge difference.

*Highlights from Student Perspectives Research, begin on page 33.*

***Engaged and Connected***

The more enthusiastic and passionate people fee who they encounter at the college (faculty, staff, and administrators) the more engaged students are likely to be.

*Highlights from Student Perspectives Research (Engaged), begin on page 33.*

Students asked about being able to feel engaged and connected when they encounter so many people at the college who do not seem to be engaged and connected.

There was a discussion on research results where some students did not see the need to feel connected because they viewed community college as not to being a “real” college. One point of the discussion was the excitement of campus visits and acceptance letters received by high school students going to four-year colleges and how that made students planning to attend community colleges feel.

*Highlights from Student Perspectives Research (Connected) begin on page 37.*

***Valued***

Making students feel that their presence adds value to the campus and makes it a richer place to be.

*“Valued” Highlights from Student Perspectives Research, begin on page 41.*

We tend to think about the support from the perspective of positions, programs, and job titles. Students see people. They can either help them or not help them.

There is a list on the RP Group’s website of 10 things that faculty members can do to help students experience the six success factors.

Attendees had a breakout session focusing on students becoming Directed.

-End of Minutes-

Minutes taken by: Cynthia Reese, creese@peralta.edu, 510.981.2851