

**Prince George's Community College**  
**Academic Council Meeting**  
**April 24, 2008; 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.**  
**HTC 133**

**Members Present:** Angela Anderson, Robert Barshay, Michael Gavin, Oliver Hansen, Carolyn Hoffman, Mark Hubley, Edward McLaughlin, Alan Mickelson, Nicholas Plants, Barbara Sanders, Scott Sinex, Shannon Smythe-Fleishman, Rhonda Spells, Charles Thomas

**Others Present:** Veronica Alford, James Courtwright, MJ Coluzzi, Tia Roebuck

**Absent:** Janet Carlson, Chingo Derrick, Sandra Dunnington, Fatina Lamar-Taylor

The meeting was called to order by M. Hubley at 3:00 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved unanimously.

M. Hubley reported that S. Dunnington has proposed a meeting on May 22, 2008, 10:00 a.m. – noon to review the Self-Study items under review by Academic Affairs again; as well as review constituent feedback and compare the old Gen Ed Core outcomes to the new.

**Core Educational/General Education Outcomes – N. Plants**

N. Plants introduced members of the Gen Ed Task Force and gave the Gen Ed Core outcomes overview. The goal of the task force was to attempt to integrate foundational and philosophical views on general education.

Questions were taken by the Gen Ed Task Force members.

R. Barshay suggested “rank” replace “prioritize” in #9 of the proposed outcomes.

M. Hubley will email a draft of the outcomes to constituents for review.

**Action**

***The group determined that the revised outcomes should be distributed to constituents and that the Council will not be prepared to finalize anything until Fall.***

**Assessing Core Educational Outcomes – M. Gavin**

M. Gavin went over the blank rubric which illustrates core outcomes that should be addressed in the courses, and distributed forms proposed to replace the old one currently in use by AOAC. AOAC developed the rubric for each department to complete for each course offered.

Middle States has suggested the use of a course map which would address: which core outcomes are related to core learning, how well students are performing, and sharing data on student learning across

the disciplines. Currently, these data are private and only M. Gavin and V. Teasdale have access to them.

J. Rosicky questioned whether there should be a similar form for program outcomes as well.

**Action**

*There will be follow-up discussion at the next meeting.*

**Curricular Issues/Questions – B. Sanders**

**Prerequisites**

B. Sanders discussed the dilemma of assessing how the sequence of prerequisites is serving the college as far as desired outcomes are concerned. She recently attended Community College day where prerequisite courses were a hot topic. Whether or not prerequisite courses adequately prepare students is not assessed and the Council should consider what our pre-reqs are and how they are preparing students – if at all. She suggested reviewing placement testing effectiveness, how we are sequencing students, and how we can infuse and build from the foundation incrementally as the program goes on to ensure student success.

R. Barshay suggested that students be required to take certain pre-prerequisites.

S. Sinex pointed out that pre-requisites are often overridden outside of the department which results in unprepared students and decreased enrollment.

The Council will continue reviewing the issues surrounding prerequisites.

**“Experimental” Courses**

B. Sanders reported that courses numbered 198, 199, 298, 299 have been in place for some time now yet no formal documentation addressing them exists. These “experimental” courses were pilot programs that ran for a few semesters for approval to become a regular course. Council is unclear on the governing body of this process.

Council members pointed out that these courses are often used for research projects and special topics courses.

**Action**

*R. Barshay suggested that B. Sanders submit a written specific recommendation on clarifying these courses. All Council members concurred.*

*B. Sanders will have a committee draft the document.*

**Professional Development Topics for Fall Opening Week – A. Mickelson**

A. Mickelson distributed the schedule from last year’s opening week and reported that he contacted Linda Suskie at Middle States to present at this Fall’s Opening Week. However, Middle States does not allow individuals to present to individual institutions. Therefore, we may invite faculty from other community colleges to attend opening week. A. Mickelson will confirm this with S. Dunnington.

The floor was opened to suggestions for themes.

M. Hubley suggested a discussion of mission and core purpose as the theme.

**Items for Future Agenda:**

- Educational Philosophy of Academic Affairs

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.