



# Basic Skills Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 2, 2017, 2:30-3:30 p.m., LR128

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**Members Present:** Barbara Salazar (chair), Tyler Okamoto (co-chair), Karleen Curlee, Marie Eckstrom, Vann Priest, Leah Griffith, Judy Sevilla-Marzona, Raquel Flores-Olson, Alice Mecom, Moises Mata, Hector Molina, James Sass, Katie O'Brien, Eva Menchaca, Brianna Hernandez (ASRHC)

**Guests Present:** Sheila Xiao

**Members Absent:** Laura Ramirez, Henry Gee, Mike Munoz, Sergio Guzman, Edward Ibarra, Matt Pitassi

**BSI/SSSP/SEP Integrated Plan** – Barbara reported that the state had extended the due date (until early January) for turning in the Integrated Plan, but that the college was maintaining its original schedule to be ahead. The plan was going to the Board in November. Hector asked about Student Equity funds for spring, and Barbara responded that we should proceed with the mindset that we would receive 95% of the previous year's allocation, per earlier advisement from Cecilia Rocha, Student Equity program manager.

**Basic Skills [BSI 2.0] Allocation Update** - Barbara provided brief background on the original Basic Skills Initiative (established in about 2006), for which the funding formula was largely based on FTEs generated from basic skills course enrollment. Over the years, the State Legislature and the Chancellor's Office has realized that the original BSI program not only resulted in minimal gains in student completion, but also may have created a perverse incentive in emphasizing basic skills course enrollment. Effective this current fiscal year, the new program—BSI 2.0—changes the emphasis to basic skills sequence completion with a new corresponding funding formula.

Additionally, along with the implementation of BSI 2.0, the state legislature allocated an additional \$30 M in statewide BSI funds (beyond the annual \$19 M allocation). \$18 M of the \$30 M has been re-allocated to colleges based on their 2014-15 (baseline) student cohort outcomes after applying the new BSI 2.0 funding formula. As a result, RHC's revised 2017-18 FY BSI allocation increased from \$160,107 to \$437,416, a dramatic increase from what we had received previously, and with a two-year timeframe for expenditure. With that said, Barbara outlined the categories for spending and asked for input. Other agreed. Katie suggested that part of the money be used for supplemental instruction (Gateway tutoring) for basic skills math and English. Similarly, Jim suggested that we support math basic skills redesign with the increased funding. Katie also suggested professional development for instructors to deal with lower-level basic skills (and possibly younger) students. These suggestions were noted. Judy asked for possible funds to increase the library hours during Finals week; Barbara answered that we most likely could not support that due to the fact that BSI funds must supplement (not supplant) regular college activities but would inquire. Alice suggested that the LAC also could be open on Saturdays.

**CAI Reset & AB705** – Barbara explained that the AB705 language requires "community college districts to *maximize* the probability that a student *will enter and complete transfer-level coursework* in math and English within a one-year timeframe *by utilizing [multiple] assessment measures.*" One can very well interpret that the emphasis is on placement practices (to ensure students are appropriately placed at the highest math and English course level possible). This really is what the college has already begun doing. However, BSI 2.0 is truly what will hold colleges accountable for producing improved basic skills sequence completion rates. Vann asked if we could ask about more clarification on AB705. Marie asked about Accuplacer and how much it would be used moving forward and is it still possible for a student challenge? Eva commented that she had not been told to stop facilitating Accuplacer testing. Students are still being placed through multiple measures assessment, including Accuplacer test scores.

**Program Updates** – Barbara gave a brief update on Roadrunner Connect. Alice commented that it has potential to be very effective. Raquel reported one concern that students may see “Rio Hondo” calling and not answer. Also, it was mentioned that some students are unfamiliar with the term, “kudos.”

**Announcement:** Next committee meeting on December 7, 2:30-3:30pm, LR128

*B.S. and T.O.*