Basic Skills Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 1, 2018, 2:30-3:30 p.m., LR128

Members Present: Barbara Salazar (chair), Tyler Okamoto (co-chair), Dr. Laura Ramirez, Henry Gee, Vann Priest, Judy Sevilla-Marzona, Karleen Curlee, Raquel Flores-Olson, Alice Mecom, Marie Eckstrom, Hector Molina, Eva Menchaca, Sergio Guzman, Leah Griffith, Edward Ibarra, James Sass, Katie O’Brien, Moises Mata

Guests Present: Jessica Perea, Maria Martinez

Members Absent: Mike Munoz, Matt Pitassi, Brianna Hernandez (ASRHC)

BSI 2.0 Allocation Update – Barbara updated the committee that the colleges are still awaiting notification from the Chancellor’s Office regarding the remaining $12M to be allocated statewide for the current 2017-18 FY. She also announced a “Categorical Consolidation Survey” from the Chancellor’s Office for input from all constituent groups by the March 4th deadline regarding the potential consolidation of categorically funded programs. The survey link will be forwarded to all committee members shortly for their encouraged participation.

AB 705 Update – As a member of the AB705 Implementation Advisory Committee assembled by the Chancellor’s Office, Dr. Ramirez shared that at the state level, it is believed that all students should be placed directly into transfer-level English and Math courses and complete both within one-year. Additionally, Cuyamaca College’s co-requisite remediation model has been noted statewide as a promising strategy for supporting student success in transfer-level (English and Math) courses. In response, some faculty concern expressed was that many students would not be prepared to write a research essay as currently required in our English 101 classes as well as in some other disciplines. Also, Cuyamaca College’s student demographics do not reflect ours. Sergio Guzman reminded everyone that Rio Hondo has already implemented many of the changes from AB705 (e.g., using high school performance data for multiple measures assessment placement) and that we still have the power to locally make decisions. Dr. Ramirez also clarified that Title 5 language would need to be revised to align with AB705 language. On another note, students will be able to select a lower level (below transfer) course if they choose, but this may also impact their financial aid. In regards to when the “one-year clock” would start for students to get through transfer-level courses, Dr. Ramirez indicated that the one-year timeframe would start as soon as a student takes his/her first class. Other concerns were voiced about the timetable for curricular changes because of established deadlines. Many other questions were asked, but it was determined that we would wait for additional clarification from the Chancellor’s Office. In fact, an AB705 Initial Guidance Memo is expected to be released by the AB705 Implementation Advisory Committee within the next week or so.

Announcement: Next scheduled committee meeting on April 5th, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

B.S. and T.O.