Student Instructional Services Committee (SISC)

Draft of Minutes of October 23, 2017

**Committee Members present:** Jason Beardsley, Chair; Patricia Burson, Vice Chair; Sharon Allie; Wendi DeMorst; Eleni Hioureas; Elisa Meyer; Stephanie Lewis; Brian Rodas; Gary Todd

**Committee Members absent:** Alejandro Lee

Also in attendance: Tony Anderson; Aline Baumgartner; Daniel Beromen; Joyce Cheney; Guido Davis Del Piccolo; Fariba Dinaali; Joshua Evertett; Jamar London; Maribel Lopez; Mitra Moasessi; Judith Mosher; Howard Stahl; Toni Trives; Elizabeth Ziff.

The Committee was called to order by Jason Beardsley at 3:30 pm.

Jason introduced the committee and noted that Georgia recommended there be an advisory board or forum that could spur conversation about improvements and recommendations of tutoring in all areas.

Wendi DeMorst (SI and Tutoring.) explained how the pockets of tutoring spread across campus will eventually be under one umbrella to aid in uniform data collection.

Jamie Anderson (Physical Science) spoke about the Science LRC and how the tutoring coordinator there, Paulo Taboada is working to create student led seminars. Jamie also noted that students seem to love the STEM tutoring area and it is full of energy and that it’s working very well for the students. STEM runs weekend boot camps and it seems that chemistry and physics students prefer that area to the LRC. He suggested that maybe part-time and full time faculty could do some of their office hours in the LRC. And that the faculty could run spring and fall boot camps in the classrooms on Saturdays. He mentioned that there is a need for Saturday morning tutoring. Jamie also feels that there is a need to improve the tutor hiring process and training. He suggests that students don’t seem to learn at the LRC, but are going there to get answers to their homework, but that generally in the sciences, homework is not a high priority, but tests are. He wondered why only math and English have IAs and other areas only have student tutors.

Aline Baumgartner (Business and CSIS tutoring) noted that tutors are not supposed to teach, they do not give answers to students on their homework. They help the student to find the answers on their own.

Josh Everett (Modern Language tutoring) inquired if there were any ideas to engender our LRCs with the same energy as STEM.

Howard Stahl (CSIS) explained that Business and CSIS have a wide variety of classes, and that Aline is great at using her space. The faculty would prefer to see more drop-in tutoring available to students in the CS Lab.He also mentioned that of all of the CSIS classes, only CS 50 has access to SI. He would like to know what the process is to have access to SI for the other courses offered.

Wendy DeMorst explained that only lower grade classes have the access to SI.

Howard noted that the faculty do not give Ds and Fs often and that it makes their classes ineligible for SI help and that it was disheartening.

Aline noted that budget is also an issue in how the choice is made as to which classes get tutoring. She also mentioned that higher level students get better paying jobs outside of the college and that makes it difficult to find tutors for the higher level classes.

Judith Mosher (Math tutoring) explained that Math is different because it has to be very individualized for the students, and that each instructor has a different method of teaching.

Brian Rodas (Math) noted that the math lab is quite different from other labs. He would like to get a better understanding of how the other labs function, and what the dynamics are. He realizes that some aspects are the same: students need help in some way. He thinks it’s important to understand the differences in order to create student success. He noted that a lot of the issues encountered seem to boil down to budget constraints. Brian commented that tutors need to also be trained in the basics of helping our students.

Josh Everett spoke about tutor training. He explained that for more than a year now they have been conducting tutor training workshop across all the centers, and that there is an ongoing effort to find methods of training to give tutors the knowledge and tools to be great tutors.

Wendi DeMorst noted that IAs should also get training. She explained that Maral Hyeler has offered some funds for training.

Maribel Lopez (from the Math dept.) noted that besides funding we need better hiring and training rules. She explained that our HR rules are different from other schools that can hire from outside the district. She says that our students a lot of ours students work in addition to taking classes and that is an issue with the time they can set aside for tutoring. She says there are a lot of barriers for our students to be able to take advantage of our tutors and that we need to work on those barriers.

Judith Mosher noted that a lot of students are requesting Saturday tutoring, mostly our working students. She also explained that 20 hrs/weeks are not enough for the IAs that help students in statistics because of the increasing number of stats classes.

Mitra Moasessi (Math) explained that there is a limit to how many hours IAs are allowed to work. She also noted that the school loses the IAs often because they find full time employment. She commented that consistency in tutor assignment is very important because of many math students have math anxiety and it benefits them to work consistently with the same tutor. She said that IAs would like to work more hours, also because they would be eligible for benefits.

Wendi DeMorst said that there was a talk with Georgia Lorenz, VP of Academic Affairs about 40 hr/week IAs but with the current budget crunch, this might not be possible now. She also noted that because of the way the Merit rules are, we cannot always hire the best and that is also a big issue.

Josh Everett explained that the tutoring centers also lose a lot of tutors because of the low wages. But that the wage increase without a budget increase will impact tutor hiring even more.

Guido Davis Del Piccolo (Sociology) explained about the coaching program he is heading called “Soch Coach” and that it is funded through equity. They offer 4 days/week, 80 min/day sessions Monday through Friday. They are tutoring sessions given by faculty. The students that receive a D grade get to take the test again if they come to the sessions. There is a problem with sustaining this program. Faculty get a stipend or reassigned time. He is wondering what will happen when funds disappear. What the options will be of continuing the program. He also explained that faculty have to have minimum qualifications to be able to coach. He said that they are having great equity success but they might lose it because of funding.

Patricia Burson (Library and LRC) offered the use of ALIS perhaps for Saturday tutoring if funded.

Toni Trives (Modern Language) mentioned that getting to campus during tutoring hours was difficult for some students, because of jobs or travel time getting to campus. She said that it would be great if there was an option to use programs like Google Hangout so the students can get tutoring remotely and it would also help with tutors not having lulls between sessions.

Wendi DeMorst explained that there is tutoring online for the DE classes. She said that it would be nice to have access to programs like CCC Confer through campus. Wendi also mentioned that there is an issue because the tutoring coordinators are all 11 month employees, so there is no tutoring available weeks seven and eight of the summer session, despite the fact that classes are in session.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.