Core Team AtD Meeting-March 15, 2011

In attendance: George Gabriel, Kathy Lloyd, Susan Givens, Laura Jacyna, Laura Young, RashmiChilka, Tanya Ingram, JariceRisper, Sherri Robinson, Jennifer Richardson, Robtrice Brawner, Athos Brewer, Laura Franklin, Carol Sinwell

Guest: Alison Thimblin (QEP)

Dr. Gabriel asked that all the campus teams push AtD for the college. He handed out pamphlets for distribution.

Kathy Lloyd would like for each campus to promote and hold an AtD Town Hall. Kathy would be willing to put together a PPT for these events specific for each campus: Suggested for fall semester.

Let Dr. G know if there are any provosts that have a problem with pushing AtD.

Kathy asked for a report re the devEng redesign. Jennifer and Susan reported on the design and the concerns that are beginning to emerge. Susan stated that there are a lot of unknowns about its design and about how it will play out. Jennifer stated that many of the decisions will most likely be made at the college level. The VCCS has stated that the devEng redesign will take effect across the state fall of 2012.

The goal for the devEng redesign is to obtain a unified model across the state. Concerns revolve around the difference in demographics. Some colleges see the redesign as a progressive step; others view the redesign as a step backwards. There will be a devEng symposium the day before New Horizons for people to gather and discuss and learn more about the redesign. There is also a BB site available for people to respond, react and present concerns and problems.

AtD is now in a position to discuss the idea of the LC idea at NOVA. Susan, Laura Franklin, Laura Young and Jennifer represented their campuses as having the desire and interest to continue LC at their campus. LCs seem to be consistent with the redesign model that is already being used and encouraged.

Dr. Gabriel suggested that if we have a good product in LCs, NOVA may have the opportunity to influence the thinking at the system level.

Kingsborough visit re LCs has been postponed. Their model pairs dev reading and writing classes which are consistent with the VCCS ideas. We need to decide when we will reschedule their visit. It’s a strong model for us to consider. It was suggested that we have Kingsborough in early fall, 2011

It was suggested that assessment for placement into devEng needs serious consideration. Robtrice and Sherri expressed the need to address the SDV needs as part of the redesign. It was suggested that theme-related topics that interest students are an important part of learning communities.

The decision was made that LCs will continue at NOVA on all campuses. It is the responsibility for each AtD campus team leaders to work with faculty on creating LCs and to follow through so people understand the commitment. Each campus is asked to find one person to advocate for LCs on their campus and to work with LCs teams to make sure they understand the requirements.
Laura Franklin suggested that LCs be added to the PUP schedule to show the successful LCs. She suggested that LCs need to be demystified. Kathy stated that we need to make sure LCs that are created actually have students. We must also work with other college officials and faculty to find ways to get students in the LCs classes. Laura Jacyna commented that LO campus St Services and Counseling pushed and sold LCs to the students which made LO LCs successful. Jarice asked about a LC brochure. Dr. Gabriel said that there already is a LC brochure that is available. He said that LC information can be put in a PDF file and made available to students at SOAR sessions.

Susan will prepare a document for the VCCS Redesign Team from our Developmental English Task Force re concerns about the redesign.

Carol asked about the assessment for devEng placement. Dr. Gabriel understands that the assessment is something different from Compass. It is not clear if there will be a placement AND diagnostic test in combination.

Laura Franklin presented a professional development opportunity on April 8 (12:00-3:00)—Strategies for Student Engagement—as a follow up to the SENSE data. The purpose will be to help people better understand the overall college mission for student engagement and success. The point of this meeting will be to get faculty together to create a lot of buzz on all campuses in order to share ideas and best practices about student success. All of the techniques will be shared through a Wiki so everyone will have access to the ideas and to share their own ideas.

Laura would like to each Core Team member to shoulder tap faculty to ask them to present at this event. Robtrice asked for Laura to define strong early engagement skills. Laura said that early engagement is nebulous. Laura also suggested that people start with SENSE data and see where our greatest need is. The goal is to encourage a wide variety of presentations. Another way to reach possible presenters would be to ask division deans for support and to encourage faculty to get involved.

It was agreed to change the title on the application for proposals from Faculty Symposium to All Faculty Symposium: Teaching, Professional, Library

Emphasize to faculty the following: Do you have ideas to share? Come and present. Do you need ideas? Come and get them.

Send any suggestions for this event to Laura Franklin as soon as possible. An email should go out to all faculty by Monday of next week.

Kathy Lloyd: Update on the AtD Campus Plans. Dr. Templin had asked for an updated and final plan for each campus, so he will better understand what each campus is doing. Kathy suggested that we have a format to send out so everyone can fill it out and we would have more consistency in the organization and structure of our plans. This form will be sent out with a due date. In addition, teams are asked to develop a plan for next year in consultation with their Provost.

Dr. Gabriel asked Athos to update the Student Services side of the campus plans. Tanya, Sherri, and Robtrice gave an update on FYE, SDV and NSO/SOAR plans.
Robtrice discussed the emphasis on how to get students to come to the SOAR/NSO. SOAR is the advising and registration time for students. The desire is to get students to attend these sessions (approx. 1-1/2 hour) before registering for classes. The second portion of this process is the NSO. NSO is the engagement portion—introducing students to campus. Dr. Gabriel talked about the summer faculty advising program and how nicely it fits within the SOAR/NSO programs. He encouraged AtD Core Team to support the summer faculty advising program. Robtrice commented that students need and want teaching faculty to be part of their first experiences at the college. Athos stated that SOAR/NSO see faculty as equal to St. Services.

Tanya spoke on FYE which includes the FYE SDV course, specifically for entering students. She stated that students are pulled from the SOAR/NSO sessions for these classes. FYE also has a website that has been viewed in the past as confusing so it is being streamlined. Another part of the FYE is the Convocation, a formal way to reach students. Another component is the use of peer mentors to help with first year students.

Sherri spoke about SDV. It used to be that SDV had different objectives for each campus. Today, they have identified common curriculum and objectives across the college. They do pre- and post-tests online. The VCCS has recommended SLO statewide and NOVA has had the opportunity to participate in that list of recommendations. More VCCS recommendations will be coming out soon. A major concern is the SDV is the capacity. The reason why colleges are not able to meet the requirement that SDV must be taken before the 16 credit is related to capacity. Some colleges have been able to meet this requirement, but NOVA hasn’t been able to yet. It is working on this objective, however.

Allison Thimblin spoke on QEP. The purpose is to improve academic planning skills through early and continued engagement with academic advisors. QEP sees AA as a hierarchy. Currently working on various projects:

1) Restructuring of advising-every campus does things differently. Restructuring will work by:
   a. First time to NOVA students will be required to see an advising specialist
   b. From there on out, students will see their faculty advising or counselors if they have special needs or are not program-placed
2) Developing advising training modules
   a. Make web modules accessible to faculty
3) Want to provide students with a program of study exploration tool
   a. Explain the different programs and degrees
4) Redesign of faculty and student advising websites
   a. Difficult to follow as is
5) Looking into a way to manage and track advising for students (in an electronic format)
   a. Long term goal
6) Creation of an annual award for academic advising
7) Creation of student video contest to demonstrate importance of academic advising
8) Assessing personal development goal for QEP
9) Having a director of academic advising and clarifying roles of those involved in advising
a. Roles for Faculty Advisor, Counselor Role, and Advising Specialists identified
b. Robtrice identified that St Ser specialist role is not identified in this model. She also identified that non-English speaking students often need extra counseling. This need should be considered in the advising model plan.

This progression of events is planned to unroll slowly over the next five years with adjustments being made according to need. The goal is for the college to have a common template for academic advising. The first year of roll out will emphasize training. Only one smaller campus will pilot the program with five advising specialists beginning in the fall. (One specialist per 500 students—first time to NOVA students.) Year two, mandatory advising for pilot campus with the addition of another campus will begin the expansion of the plan. The plan allows for constant revisiting and revising.

Athos suggested that Advising Specialists need to conduct SOAR sessions as well as their other responsibilities.

AtD Core Team recommends to Admin Council:

- SOAR/NSO be required by all first time NOVA students (with a graduated plan with SOAR being required first)
- A discussion of how SDV can be required for first time students
- English and math placement tests be required for appropriate sets of students who enter NOVA.
- Reduction of late registration period
- Discussion of the achievement gaps and plans to reduce gaps related to gender and ethnicity

When the proposals are drafted, they will be sent to the core team for comments.

Submitted by Laura Young, March 15, 2011