Meeting Notes, Achieving the Dream, March 16, 2010

The meeting convened at 12:30. Members in attendance: Dan Lewis, Bev Drucker, Jacqueline Gibbons, Jane Serbousek, Hortense Hinton, Cate Keaser, Carol Sinwell, Laura Franklin, George Gabriel, Kathy Lloyd, Pat Gary, Cheri Spiegel, and Stacy Rice

Special Guests: John Pickleman, Achieving the Dream Coach; Dan McConochie, Achieving the Dream Coach; and Tanya Ingram, Chair of First Year Experience Task Force

Debrief of Administrative Council/Achieving the Dream Discussion: George Gabriel indicated that the provosts will be more involved in supporting the Achieving the Dream initiative. The core team will also need to be engaged in moving the AtD initiative “to the next level.”

Campus Team Reports: Highlights include the following:

(1) Alexandria: Laura Franklin discussed the bridge program with school system, shared faculty development/faculty exchange program, college faculty residents at the high schools. Future plans include expanding membership of AtD to new faculty, professional development on E-Portfolio for students, inviting ESL faculty to be involved in AtD initiative, sharing with faculty the resources of MERLOT, service learning. Discounted Dreams viewed three times.

(2) Annandale: Cheri Spiegel discussed provost forums, which are conducted once a month to discuss issues of interest such as learning resources, unity work (i.e. working in collaboration with faculty and staff to strengthen student success), and teaching with technology; reviewing possibility of adopting common book for faculty, staff, and students; divisions will be providing progress reports on its AtD-related initiatives.

(3) Loudoun: Stacy Rice discussed 3 forums modeled on Annandale forums; interest in treating adjunct faculty professional development as an AtD-related issue; considering the possibility of showing Discounted Dreams; recent surge in faculty interest in AtD at campus.

(4) Medical Education Campus: Jacqueline Gibbons indicated that AtD subcommittees are very active reviewing data and keeping current with implementation plan; struggling to address tutoring needs.

(5) Manassas: Pat Geary provided overview of “Manassas Connections” initiative; there’s strong interest in mentoring faculty and working with adjunct faculty. AtD committee very active—meetings on a weekly basis.

(6) Woodbridge: Bev Drucker discussed ongoing campus meetings focused on Discounted Dreams, developmental English orientation, and learning communities.

(7) ELI: Laura Franklin discussed focus on student orientation for distance learning; students do better when they complete the orientation.

Presentation of FYE Proposal: Tanya Ingram, the chair of the FYE Task Force provided overview of its report including Common Reader Program, Peer Mentoring, FYE
Convocation, FYE Learning Community and FYE Social Networking Opportunities; implementation scheduled to begin in fall 2010; future goals include an Early Alert system, Freshman Advising, FYE Website development Phase I, 11, and FYE Block Curriculum Cohort. Core team recommended that Administrative Council be provided timeline and data to support recommendations. Core team approved proposal.

Presentation of NCAT Proposal (Bev Drucker): Bev Drucker from Woodbridge presented the draft proposal for NCAT course redesign. She emphasized that this is a draft that was originally written for the Woodbridge campus. Following the NCAT meeting last week, it looks like it could serve as a template for NOVA. Team members going to the NCAT conference Mar28-30 will be looking for ways to refine the draft for implementation. It was noted that other campuses most likely will have their own ideas to contribute to the proposal. More discussion is needed following the conference.

Highlights from the proposal:

- MTH 1 would be divided into modules and delivered using MyMathLab.
- Students attend class 3 hours per week, lab two hours per week and then some outside time working on assignments.
- Modules have a pretest, 3 quizzes, homework and a post test.
- Students must pass a module (pass score TBD) before moving on to the next one.
- Students can place out of a module with a qualifying score (TBD) on the pretest.
- Tutors will still be in the classroom.
- All students begin with module 1.

Jane Serbousek pointed out that the VCCS will be redesigning the content of developmental math, for implementation in Fall 2011. The modules suggested by the NCAT proposal could be modified to fit the new content design without being labor intensive. She also suggested that the NCAT model would result in a more consistent developmental sequence across the college.

Pass/Fail grades and one course (MTH 1) do not give the data needed in a cultural of evidence.

Learning Communities proposal for Compensation (Jane Serbousek): Jane Serbousek has submitted a proposal requesting reassign time for Learning Community Instructors. George is working on the details and will follow up through emails. The proposal, with modifications, will be approved. It is driven by the existing budget.

April College meeting: Kathy Lloyd will notify the Core Team of the date for the all college AtD meeting.
Notes by Dan Lewis and Jane Serbousek