

Latino Advisory Committee  
June 12, 2006  
Minutes

Attending: Maria Elena De La Garza, Estevan Guzman, Veronica Lezama, Raul Vega

Resource staff: Steve Kinsella, John Pruitt

Steve Kinsella called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

- I. Student Profile Report  
John reviewed profile report. A suggestion was made to include number of units students are taking.
- II. Student Information (Graduates/Transfers)  
John reviewed Program and Certificate Awards for Gavilan College (2004-2005), a total of 681 awards (degrees/certificates) were granted. Numbers for 2005-2006 were not available as grades are still being processed.

John reported that he attended a meeting at CSUMB and they have agreed to provide more information on students who have transferred from Gavilan.

Steve noted that the Early College High School classes that will be offered at San Benito High School, which will help to connect with students before they leave high school.

Estevan stated that Mr. Jim Caffaro at the high school would like to attend meetings. Steve suggested that Mr. Caffaro contact John Pruitt.

John reported that there is a full time outreach specialist, Lynda Kerr, who has been visiting high schools and attending various events. Gavilan College sponsored an event on May 12, at Eagle Ridge, and invited all area high school educators to meet staff at Gavilan. All area Superintendents attended. The HighStep Program, which provides transfer opportunities at the high schools, will begin in Gilroy and Morgan Hill with course offerings (general education) in the fall, Introduction to AJ at Sobrato High School, English 1A at Live Oak, English 1A and Introduction to Sociology at Gilroy. Some courses have prerequisites. The goal is to plant the seed for higher education and to make Gavilan their choice for college. This program is available to any student; however, marketing is directed to high school juniors and seniors.

San Benito High School approached Gavilan about offering online classes. A pilot program will begin this fall, which will use a lab at the high school; curriculum will be shared with the instructor, who will serve as a coach/tutor. At this time there are 30 students. The College will offer a guidance course and a non credit course that will assist students with using online internet as a research tool (like a library). The goal is to bring students to into general studies courses and if this works we may do the same with other schools.

Eight staff members from Gavilan attended Career Night at Gilroy High School with 800 students attending.

Success and retention rate is above the state average.

Steve has received requests for child development courses to be taught in Spanish. UC and CSU do not accept as transfer courses unless they are taught in English. The courses that are taught in Spanish can be used for certification. Steve noted that the courses can be taught in Spanish, but a change in numbering is necessary.

Elena stated that there is a need for coordination of ESL courses.

### III. Suggestions for web site/page information

It was decided to hold this item over to the next meeting; Kyle Billups, webmaster, will be invited to answer questions.

- Estevan suggested a link for minutes of meetings, information on programs/services/events; identify Latino Advisory Committee on Gavilan's web site; what can Gavilan offer? what is going on in your community?
- Email note from Aida Zaldivar, South County Housing suggested a link to South County Housing and other social service agencies, college criteria, college success stories

### IV. Other

Steve reported that an application for a grant has been submitted and we will not know until Sept. if we will receive funding. We have been unable to get information for San Benito, e.g., school districts, economic information, that would help with funding. A Memorandum of Understanding with several agencies, including Gavilan College, has been approved which will help to obtain geographic information. Steve and Veronica Lezama are members of the Geographic Information System (GIS) Committee.

Estevan asked if Gavilan could lend support when issues related to education come up. Steve indicated that the College will do what it can, but needed to be careful about placing itself in a position of political lobbying. The College can provide information. Rachel Perez is working on the high school exit exam preparation.

V. Next meeting - August 14, 2006, 6:00 p.m.

Elena asked about developing a strategic plan. Steve noted that he is interested in getting a planning agenda, looking for those who are interested in Latino issues, and what Gavilan College can do to meet the needs of students. As soon as committee members are firmly identified, the next step would be strategic planning.

Note: Please contact Suzanne (408-848-4711) if you are UNABLE to attend meetings so we can reschedule if necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.