

Latino Advisory Committee  
May 7, 2007  
Minutes

Attending: Elvira Robinson (Chair), Lorena Tariba, Aida Zaldivar, Bob Gomez, John Perez, Veronica Lezama, Rolan Resendiz (San Benito County LULAC), Shirley Trevino

Other in attendance: E. Cervantes, C. Marquez, L. Carrillo, K. Campbell, F. Gonzalez, A. Ratto, Laura MESA student

Resource staff: Adrienne Atkinsete, Rachel Perez

Meeting called to order 7:03 p.m.

I. Minutes

MS (Gomez/Zaldivar) 2/12/07, 4/9/07 minutes approved as presented, Veronica Lezama abstained.

II. Letters in Support of the Noncredit Program

Elvira read two additional letters from the Gilroy Unified School District and Dolores Huerta Foundation in support of the Noncredit Program. A total of 5 letters have been received.

III. Web Site Update

Bob Gomez looked at it today and commented the content was well done. Fabio noted that Gavilan College received second place in a statewide web site competition, with the Chancellor's Office in first place.

IV. Update from EOPS, Puente, TRIO, MESA, CAHSEE

Anne Ratto, Director, reported: served 509 students; 75% Latino; budget of \$494,000; work study program gaining momentum (noted an article in *The Dispatch*), 8 staff members, new full-time counselor Blanca Arteaga; students participate on field trips, clubs (EOP&S and MANO); announced a Gestalt Educational Workshop, May 12, with Dr. Mario Riva; expanded services to Morgan Hill and Hollister sites; average persistence rate 77% compared to college-wide persistence of 49%. Shirley suggested tracking what degrees students receive. Students are strongly encouraged to declare major and referred to the Career Center to assist them in this area.

Celia Marquez, Puente Counselor/Coordinator, reported: students attend Gavilan College 2 ½ to 3 years then transfer; main focus for Puente Program is on writing; fall semester 27 students, spring 24 students; 13 from Gilroy, 4 from Morgan Hill, and 7 from Hollister, 9 transferred to UC Davis, UC Berkeley, UC, Santa Cruz, and SJSU; students participated in college visits, leadership conference; 106 students, parents and mentors participated in the end of year celebration on April 27; program received \$205,000 in donations through the

Gavilan College Educational Foundation; club ambassadors participate in various community activities. Xochi Candelaria, English instructor and Puente co-coordinator, is taking a leave and Scott Sandler has agreed to fill the position. The transfer rate for students is 90% and more students are going to UC institutions.

Fabio Gonzalez, Director, TRIO reported: at the end of first year of second grant cycle; 4 more years (2009); federal program, started at Gavilan in 2001; served 160 students (80% Latino), resources provided, 40 laptops, a wireless center; personal and career counseling, tutoring, supplemental grant aid, university visits, workshops, leadership conference, volunteer opportunities, campus activities; work with other programs (EOPS/CalSOAP) to recruit students in the Bridge Program; 38 students graduating and transferring.

Eddie Cervantes, Director, MESA reported: tutoring available in English and Spanish; workshops; study groups, meet with a facilitator weekly; study center; community building activities, academic counseling, career development activities and workshops; participate in student leadership development conference for engineering and computer science majors (sponsored by PG&E and MESA); Laura Almaguer, MESA student participated in an Basic & Advanced Science & Technology Academies of Research internship program and has received an internship this summer with the Department of Energy in Washington state; served 113 students, Latinos the largest group, also the largest to transfer; working with high schools and middle schools and CalSOAP to recruit students; majority are women and first generation college students.

Rachel Perez, Associate Dean, Community Development and Grants Management, acknowledged the work of staff in special programs. Rachel reviewed the history of CAHSEE and reported that Gavilan College has received a \$269,000 grant that will assist with contacting seniors who did not pass the exit exam and provide classes that will prepare students to pass the test. Curriculum has been approved and will be used with instruction (hours will vary with student) and computer lab time. The College will be working with feeder high school districts and hopes to begin classes in June. Students will be assessed and provided with matriculation services. There is a need to hire 6 instructors as well as 10 tutors, and a counselor. This grant can also assist 2007 students who are not passing the exit exam. Rachel reported that she presented information on the K-12 partnerships and the implications of CAHSEE at the Community College League of California Annual Trustees Conference in San Francisco.

V. Celebración del Campo Update

Shirley requested that Gavilan participate in this event by providing a table with staff that are bilingual and information in English and Spanish. This is a day dedicated to agriculture workers acknowledging their contribution. A concern was stated that the level of participation from Gavilan College at events should

be at the same level. A request was made to have John Pruitt work with outreach staff to attend event.

VI. Designate for Web Site

Veronica Lezama will work with Jan to provide updates to the web site.

VII. Other

Elvira thanked the ESL instructors for attending. Aida stated that the Sobrato and Rancho Park sites have been successful and thanked Rachel for providing needed services. An invitation was extended to the ESL faculty to visit the sites.

Kathy Campbell thanked the committee for the invitation to attend the meeting and for sharing the community letters written in support of a Noncredit ESL program. She stated that the ESL Credit Program, which is divided into two tracks – a seven level academic track and a three level survival track, has been successfully serving a diverse student population with varying educational and life goals. And at the same time the ESL Department recognizes the need to further expand its services to better meet the needs of those students who may benefit from noncredit classes and the flexibility they offer. With this in mind, the Department is in the process of converting its survival track into noncredit status, and if all the details can be worked out in time, it will begin offering these noncredit courses at various sites in the community beginning in spring '08. These survival level ESL courses focusing on life skills would be in addition to the noncredit ESL Citizenship and vocational ESL courses already being offered. Steve stated that the Board of Trustees supports the noncredit program.

Announcements:

July 21, 2007, event recognizing Latino winery owners at the Mexican Heritage Plaza

Adrienne reported that she will be meeting with Rachel Perez and Kathy Campbell to discuss the ESL and noncredit programs.

VIII. Next meeting July 9, 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Items:

Success Strategies of Programs Basic Skills Group  
Presentation from Marta Arevalo, Migrant Program Coordinator, GUSD  
Early Childhood Education Classes Update

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.