Minutes for Learning Support Services Committee Meeting 28 January, 2013 4:00 P.M., Room 1502

Call to order: 4:03 P.M. Notes by Terry Norris

Dr. Ruhl explained that the purpose of the meeting was to address concerns voiced by Caroline Bennett, Math Lab Tutorial Specialist, regarding a perceived discrepancy between tutor funding, tutor responsibilities, and tutoring programs in the various tutoring centers on campus; as well as an apparent overlap in math tutoring between the Math Lab and the Study Skills Center (SSC).

Dr. Ruhl addressed the funding issue by explaining that \$15,000.00 for tutor salaries had been allocated to the Math Lab at the beginning of the academic year. He mentioned that he had talked to Caroline and Daniel Gilison, Science/Math/Engineering Department Chair, about this issue and clarified the situation. They concurred that their concerns had been dealt with and that they now understood the situation clearly.

In order to clarify the situation for the committee, Dr. Ruhl asked Josue Verduzco, Study Skills Center Coordinator, to explain how the SSC operates—what classes it tutors, what student populations it serves, what kinds of tutors it hires, where it gets its funding, and the kind of math tutoring it does compared to the tutoring in the Math Lab.

Josue addressed those issues, using a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the statistics. He emphasized the contrast between increased student load and decreased funding and how that decrease affected the SSC's ability to tutor. He addressed the issue of the apparent overlap in math tutoring between the Math Lab and the SSC by explaining that almost all of the students who come to the SSC for math tutoring are referred there by the EOPS program. Olga Artechi, who oversees that program, said that the EOPS program has been pleased with the results of the tutoring those students receive in the SSC and commented that when they have sent students to the Math Lab, the results were not as good. Josue also explained that the percentage of math tutoring the SSC does in comparison to the other subjects it tutors is small and does not constitute a threat to the Math Lab.

Caroline expressed a concern that the tutors in the Math Lab were competent and well trained but were limited from giving students much consistent help because there were so few tutors that they were overwhelmed and didn't have much time to spend with each student.

There was discussion of some concerns raised by math faculty who were there, regarding the quality of tutoring in the SSC, student/tutor ratio in the Math Lab, the limited facilities in the Math Lab, and the sharing of tutors between the SSC and the Math Lab to relieve the pressure in the Math Lab.

Adjournment: 4:59 P.M.