

Guided Pathways Steering Committee Minutes

October 2, 2024 / 9 am -11 am

Approved 11.6.24

Meeting attendees (22): Claire Coyne, Tanisha Burrus, Helen Barriere, Rosa Bernal, Daniel Cristobal, Janet Cruz-Teposte Ed.D, Maria Dela Cruz Ph.D., Marvin Gabut Ph.D., Vaniethia Hubbard Ed.D., Alondra Hernandez, James Kennedy Ed.D., Chantal Lamourelle, Cecilia Lorenzo (student rep), Jesus Miranda Ph.D., Vanessa Orozco-Martinez, Refugio Rodriguez Ed.D, Anushi Seneviratne Ed.D., Krystle Taylor Ed.D, Greg Toya Ed.D, Tammie Velasquez, Christina Kim Wagner, Timothy Winchell ,Ph.D

1.0 Procedural Matters

1.1 The meeting was called to order by Tanisha Burrus at 9:04 am

1.2 Approval of Minutes - Meeting on September 4, 2024

- Dr. Maria Dela Cruz moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Greg Toya
Claire Coyne confirmed the approval of the September 4, 2024, meeting minutes with no objections or abstentions.

1.3 Introductions & Brave Space Guidelines

- Claire Coyne opened the floor for new guest introductions and reviewed the community/ brave space guidelines, emphasizing respect, honesty, and learning from one another. She also shared a quote from President Obama to set a constructive tone.

2.0 Informational Items

2.1. Special Guest Presentation: Guided Pathways Regional Coordinator

- Tanisha Burrus introduced Tammie Velasquez, the new Guided Pathways Regional Coordinator. Tammie shared her background and her commitment to supporting the college in reimagining pathway structures.

2.2. Discussion: Decolonizing Guided Pathways Terminology

- Led by Claire Coyne & Tanisha Burrus:
A robust discussion addressed the need to adapt terminology within Guided Pathways to reflect equity-focused language and avoid terms with Eurocentric connotations, such as "pillars." Tanisha suggested replacing this with tree imagery to symbolize growth and interconnectedness. Dr. Jesus Miranda emphasized the need for language that reflects inclusivity, sharing that terms like "pillars" may reinforce traditional hierarchies.
 - Other committee member comments: Dr. Vaniethia Hubbard advocated for replacing the term "pillars" with more student-centered language, reflecting a trend among colleges. Chantal Lamourelle recommended minimizing jargon and suggested adopting a "pathways to success" framework, emphasizing unity and alignment with equity

objectives.

Cecilia Lorenzo, the Student Representative, noted that "Guided Pathways" can be confusing for students, who are more familiar with "CAPs" (Career and Academic Pathways). She offered to gather peer feedback by connecting with the Associated Student Government (ASG) and student ambassadors.

Daniel Cristobal, representing Classified Professionals, supported a shift in terminology to better resonate with students' backgrounds and identities. He encouraged using language that reflects students' identities and suggested regular updates to terms based on student feedback.

2.3 Success Teams Membership Update

- Tanisha Burrus provided an update on Success Teams, noting a vacancy for the STEM CAP Coordinator. Monique Marino will continue as the Money Matters Success Coach. Helping Others CAP Coordinators, Dr. Krystle Taylor and Dr. Timothy Winchell shared plans for integrated Success Team efforts across campus in received student feedback regarding their experiences, this will be in collaboration with the Research department.

2.4 GP Pillar Subcommittee Updates

- Tanisha Burrus opened with an overview of GP Pillar Subcommittees, noting a possible terminology shift away from "pillars." She reviewed each subcommittee's goal alignment within the Guided Pathways Plan and shared insights from a recent meeting with Dr. Martinez.
 - Dr. Martinez requested that subcommittees contact him directly for data requests via email and suggested advance scheduling if he needs to join meetings. Tanisha also encouraged using the Teams channel for document uploads, recognizing Vanessa Orozco-Martinez for her contributions.

Pillar 1: Clarify the Path (Transfer):

Co-Leads: Dr. Maria Dela Cruz, Leo Pastrana, Vanessa Orozco-Martinez

- Dr. Maria Dela Cruz raised a question about the 2% transfer rate increase target, seeking clarity on baseline data. Tanisha confirmed the goal but noted uncertainty around the baseline definition, which Dr. Martinez had addressed, emphasizing consistency in tracking methods.
 - Chantal Lamourelle clarified that the baseline came from the prior SEAP plan endpoint, with the goal to increase by 20 students in year two and by 23 in year three, aiming to close the equity gap.
- Vanessa provided updates on subcommittee efforts to enhance transfer awareness for male and underrepresented students, including workshops and collaborations with affinity groups. She suggested leveraging graduation petition data to engage students in transfer events and clarified they were assessing metrics to track eligibility, admission, and enrollment stages in the transfer process.
 - Dr. Vaniethia Hubbard confirmed that the 2% transfer goal aligns with the Student Success Metrics Dashboard and advised using the work plan's definitions. Tanisha noted Dr. Martinez's suggestion of "transfer-ready" as a more accurate term. The team stressed the need for consistent messaging to avoid overwhelming students. Maria Dela Cruz

highlighted plans to collaborate with athletics to create transfer workshops for student-athletes, supporting coordinated, campus-wide communication efforts.

Pillar 2: Enter the Path (Early Decision, CA Adult Education Program):

Co-Leads: Dr. Greg Toya and Dr. Refugio Rodriguez

- Refugio Rodriguez summarized the subcommittee's first meeting on September 18, where they reviewed the initiative's goals and discussed its alignment with the Student Equity and Achievement Program (SEAP). They established monthly meetings on the third Wednesday and invited broader participation. Members also shared updates, emphasizing the need to connect existing efforts and improve cross-committee collaboration.
- Dr. Greg Toya agreed, noting that the next meeting would focus on collaborative strategies for goal achievement, and encouraged input from other co-leads. Dr. Maria Dela Cruz added that they would support the goals within the current transfer and counseling center frameworks, aiming to enhance existing programs rather than create new ones.

Pillar 3: Stay on the Path (Persistence, Completion & Zero Textbook Cost to Degree)

Lead: Dr. Marvin Gabut

- Dr. Marvin Gabut reported on the Pillar 3 Subcommittee's initial meeting, which was brief due to low attendance on September 6. He shared plans for their upcoming meeting, which will focus on benchmarking and include Chantal Lamourelle to review previous data and past work related to Guided Pathways (GP) Pillar 3. Regular monthly meetings will be scheduled at the beginning of each month.
- Tanisha Burrus requested that Dr. Gabut also provide updates on the zero-textbook-cost degree initiative, since their representative Jacqueline would be unavailable for the semester. Dr. Gabut agreed to coordinate updates on her behalf to keep the committee informed on progress in that area.

Pillar 4: Ensure Learning (Complete Transfer level Math & English, SEAP, Strong Workforce)

Lead: Chantal Lamourelle

- The team has not yet met due to scheduling conflicts and conferences but plans to do so before our next GP meeting. As the lead, I have already started individual discussions with committee members and will provide an update on the TEAMS site once the full team has met.

Additional discussion topics:

- Various committee members emphasized the importance of consistent messaging to prevent overwhelming students with multiple communications from different departments.
- Communication w/ students: Helen Barriere stressed the need for clear, unified communication with students to avoid overwhelming them. She proposed a visual "roadmap" highlighting key recurring events each semester (e.g., SAC Days) to keep students informed and engaged. This roadmap would help departments avoid duplicative efforts and enhance cross-departmental

collaboration. Helen also suggested holding sessions in affinity centers to bring services closer to students.

- Tanisha Burrus supported the idea, referencing past efforts for a shared activity calendar and suggesting integration with Starfish and Canvas for easier student access.
- Dr. Anushi Seneviratne clarified that her goal is to collaborate with existing teams, not create new initiatives.

2.5 SEAP Update: Highlighting Guided Pathways Connections

- Chantal Lamourelle shared collaborations between Guided Pathways and SEAP, focusing on partnerships with organizations like the Black Chamber of Commerce and “100 Black Men” to support Black students in STEAM.
- Equity Goal Facilitator (SEAP Goal #1): Dr. Anushi Seneviratne outlined her ongoing work to enhance outreach for underrepresented students, particularly Black and African American students, by seeking access to specific demographic data. She noted challenges in timely data access and coordinating efforts with other campus programs to avoid redundancy. Dr. Seneviratne aims to create a structured, sustainable support system that maintains engagement with students needing additional resources.
 - Dr. Vaniethia Hubbard acknowledged these challenges and offered support by coordinating with Mark DeAsis, Dean of Enrollment Services, to produce a detailed demographic report. Dr. Hubbard committed to copying Dr. Seneviratne and Chantal Lamourelle to ensure transparent data sharing and prompt updates. This effort seeks to provide the most recent student data to bolster Dr. Seneviratne’s outreach.
 - Dr. Greg Toya highlighted that Paula has already assembled a list of Black and African American students for Fall 2024. He recommended meeting with Paula to refine outreach strategies, emphasizing personalized, impactful communication. Dr. Toya aims to avoid overlap in efforts while enhancing outreach effectiveness and student engagement.
- Equity Goal Facilitator (SEAP Goal #4): Alondra Hernandez: Introduced herself and shared her work on Goal 4, focusing on identifying and supporting pandemic-enrolled students to achieve a 3-year transfer. She is collaborating with the research department and expressed progress, albeit slow.
- Equity Goal Facilitator (SEAP Goal #2): Rosa Bernal: Updated on efforts in connecting with Dr. Janet, Dr. Martinez, and Professor Rick Kaur. She highlighted challenges in interpreting inconsistent data, noted interactions with students, and shared her outreach with the U2 Scholars and veterans’ services. She proposed increasing student engagement through on-campus orientation visits and math center requirements.
 - Dr. Greg Toya: Offered to facilitate Rosa’s connection with other student centers to enhance math support and endorsed her outreach initiatives.
- *Placed in chat:* (sent this email to Dr. Martinez): I am currently working under Professor Lamourelle and Dr. Nery as a Student Equity Achievement Plan (SEAP) facilitator. In this role, I am specifically



focusing on increasing Male persistence from first primary term to subsequent primary term, resulting in a growth of 177 students. "Once I get this contact information, I will begin to identify gaps and schedule resources for these students." (Member/Equity Goal Facilitator working on Goal #3- Dr. Chris Becerra)

- Equity Goal Support Coordinator-- Dr. Janet Cruz-Teposte: Acknowledged data inconsistencies, confirming facilitators were assigned to departments for their specific goals. She emphasized replicating last year's student (equity) fair, which successfully connected students with affinity centers, suggesting holding the fair twice per semester.

2.6 Santa Ana College Comprehensive Educational Plan Activities

- Claire Coyne introduced a worksheet to help subcommittees align their activities with the college's broader educational goals and gather feedback on existing equity and partnership initiatives. Members completed the exercise in small groups (break-out rooms). The subcommittee leads were instructed to take the activity back to the subcommittee members for input; final form due to Tanisha Burrus and Claire Coyne by October 28, 2024. The final document will be submitted to Dr. Martinez by October 31, 2024.

3.0 Appreciation & Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM.