

LEARNING SUPPORT DIRECTORS' MEETING
APRIL 2, 2005

The learning support directors (or their designees) met in conjunction with the annual conference at St. Simons on Saturday, April 2, 2005. Tim Floyd called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Those present introduced themselves (list of attendees attached).

Valerie Epps, this year's conference chair, provided information with regard to the conference and indicated that this year's presenters would receive a certificate of appreciation.

DISCUSSION:

- ! Jackie Thornberry reviewed the new admissions policy directed primarily toward two year colleges and discussed the major changes involved with evaluation of CPC vs. TC units, the limited use of the SAT/ACT, and the effects on learning support enrollment. Tim Floyd indicated that he would check on the status of the learning support directors' recommendation last year that a third class in the area of learning support math be added.

- ! Leslie Caldwell, Board of Regents, provided updates on several issues and then responded to questions. (1) Dr. Caldwell indicated that RT remediation courses, at least for the time being, could be either 2 or 3 hours credit. (2) The concern that "IP" is no longer an option for RT remediation course grades generated discussion. Following the discussion Richard Baskin moved and Janet O'Brien seconded that a recommendation be sent to the appropriate persons at the BOR that the IP grade be reinstated. The motion passed unanimously, and the necessary steps will be taken. (3) Whether or not an institution uses internet-based COMPASS is its decision, but this mode of testing is not supported by the Regents' Testing Office. (4) Continuing concerns as to whether or not COMPASS is the best placement/exit tool were expressed, but there is no suitable replacement at this time. (5) Tim Floyd will send Dr. Caldwell all previous correspondence related to an on-line practice COMPASS test in hopes that someone at the BOR level will pursue this need with ACT personnel. (6) Dr. Caldwell emphasized the need for institutions to create some type of assessment report with regard to learning support courses so that upper level administrators are aware of these programs and their successes; Janet O'Brien will send to him copies of reports learning support directors used to receive with regard to success rates for students exiting learning support and taking regular academic courses. (7) Studies will be done to correlate the new SAT writing score with exemption of the RT essay. (8) Because of concerns that one test may appear to overshadow a semester's worth of evaluations, Dr. Caldwell is also considering additional means of appeal with regard to COMPASS exit testing and the Regents' Test reading portion.

- ! There was much discussion regarding a plan to centralize the operation of BANNER which would provide for one server on the state level and one group responsible for updates, program changes, etc. If this centralization occurs, the fear is that all local modifications that have been made to BANNER will be lost. Other issues include the timing of various upgrades to reflect different calendars, the speed of the transactions,

and what will happen if/when the system goes down. Learning support directors were urged to contact their institutional IT persons to discuss these issues.

- ! With the expiration of Terry Irvin's three year term on the LS Executive Committee, Melanie Thornton, Darton College, was unanimously elected to fill that position. The 2005-2006 slate of officers for next year was also approved: Valerie Epps as chair of the learning support directors, Francesca Taylor as conference chair, Jackie Thornberry as secretary, and Tim Floyd as past chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Francesca B. Taylor
Secretary