Division Needs Interview: Language Arts

Date: December 19, 2012

Event: Meeting at West Los Angeles College (Room CE-122)

Attendees:

- Frances Leonard, WLAC-Language Arts Chair
- Judith-Ann Friedman, WLAC-Academic Affairs Dean (Friedmja@wlac.edu)
- Douglas Newby, West Edge Architects (douglas@westedgearchitects.com)
- Peter Mitsakos, West Edge Architects (peter@westedgearchitects.com)

Project: WLAC Needs Assessment

Project Number: 1026

Reported By: Douglas Newby

Distribution: Attendees

Steve Sharr, Steve.Sharr@build-laccd.org (Build-LACCD CPM)
Rebecca Tillberg, Tillberw@wlac.edu (WLAC Office of Research & Planning)

Discussion:

A. Potential On-Campus Growth (Beyond Campus Median Growth Rate)
   1. Growth beyond campus median rate would come from improving student retention and persistence rates.
   2. E.S.L. program
      a. Contraction due to budget cuts.
      b. E.S.L. students currently learning in “context” (Anthropology, Art History, etc.) rather than E.S.L. specific courses.

B. Current Space Needs
   1. Expanded Writing Lab: current space on first floor of HLRC Building is a converted study room that is too small and does not have enough equipment.
      a. Role of ‘Writing Lab’ is to offer additional instruction outside formal instructional periods.
         i. Improves success rates (Pass/Fail)
         ii. Improves retention and persistence rates (Enrollment in subsequent course)
iii. Support idea of “editing” before submitting final paper.

b. Space Requirements
   i. 10 Workstations minimum
      1. Student utilization is “sparse until mid-terms”
      2. On-line Writing lab supplements existing lab in HLRC
   ii. 2 Faculty Shifts per Day
      1. Faculty Shift: 1 Lab Tek & 2 Tutors.
   iii. Technology
      1. Need on-site CPUs in case students do not have their own laptop.
      2. 1 CPU per workstation
   iv. Location
      1. “Nice to have energy of Tutoring Center”, but location in HLRC Building is not required.

2. Study Groups
   a. Space does not currently exist for instructor/student collaboration outside of instructional hours.
   b. Space for instructor and 10-15 students required.
      i. Shared Resource OK.
      ii. Could be a good use for “small classrooms” that are not currently being utilized in MS-A Building.

3. Literary Magazine Office
   a. Division currently has the equipment required to publish an on-line magazine.
      i. Would provide students an opportunity to use their English skills in practice.
   b. No current space provided to meet w/ students for journalistic efforts
   c. No current space provided to store equipment.

If in the opinion of any attendee information contained in this report is inaccurate, either by error or omission, that individual shall contact the author within 3 business days of the receipt if this report with a request to amend the inaccurate or incomplete information. This report, as written or so amended, shall serve as the official record of statements, discussions and decisions occurring during the reported meeting.