

Learning Strategies Taskforce
Minutes for Meeting
September 19, 2002

The Learning Strategies Taskforce met on Thursday September 19, 2002. The following members were present:

Jeremiah Council	Gerri Dobbins
Chris Koone	Nancy Womack
Debbie Puett	Bill Lewis
Bob Harrison	Donna Harrison
Kim Gold	Fred Bayley

At the last meeting of the Learning Strategies Taskforce members agreed to research four learning strategies and report to the group regarding the possibility of offering training for that strategy on campus. The meeting began with members reporting their findings. Jeremiah Council presented a proposal for training on Paideia. He presented two options for consideration. The first option involved Paideia trainers coming to campus to conduct two six day trainings and a follow-up training that would occur four to eight weeks later. The cost of the trainers would be approximately \$1,500 per day. The second option would be to bring Grady Franklin from Chase High School to conduct a one-session training. The fee for the training would be \$500. Jeremiah also gave a brief summary of Paideia and the benefits of using this technique.

Following Jeremiah's presentation Gerri Dobbins shared information on the uses of self- assessment. The difficulty in conducting training according to Gerri is that the applications and methods of using self-assessment are varied across subject areas and depend on the individual instructor's needs and goals for the classroom. However, despite this difficulty Gerri felt that it would be useful to have instructors work together to develop ways to use self-assessment in their disciplines. Nancy Womack mentioned that the Assessment taskforce had been planning to do a self-assessment workshop as part of a campus-wide assessment focus and perhaps Gerri and Tim Beaver could be in charge of that workshop.

Chris Koone then presented his findings regarding Problem-based learning. Chris shared that Problem-based learning focuses on teaching students to learn and solving real world problems. A benefit of Problem-based learning is that it fits nicely with Cooperative Learning. Chris shared materials from a workshop offered by the North Carolina Community College system in 1998. The facilitators of that workshop have not yet been identified and Chris agreed to continue making contacts to find who facilitated this workshop and determine the cost of conducting a workshop on campus. Several people suggested contacts that might provide further information on this workshop.

Nancy Womack then discussed Inquiry-based instruction. The three objectives of Inquiry-based learning are, to establish an ability to think, to promote intellectual maturity and to evaluate critical thinking. Nancy shared a sample assignment as an example of an Inquiry-Based lesson. Nancy also mentioned that a round table addressing Inquiry- Based learning was planned for October 3rd at 2:30.

Kim Gold presented a recommendation that the taskforce also consider a refresher workshop on Cooperative Learning. Cooperative Learning Foundations training has not been offered in over a year except during the Summer Institute and Kim suggested a refresher course to keep the momentum going would be appropriate.

The group then discussed what the next step should be in addressing the strategies presented. It was felt that all the strategies had merit but that realistically priorities must be made due to time and budget constraints. It was decided that because a round table for Inquiry-based learning was already scheduled it would be best to see what interest was generated before addressing this strategy further. It was also decided that self-assessment would be best addressed in a campus-wide assessment workshop sponsored by the Assessment taskforce. A round table on Paideia was discussed as a way to create awareness of this strategy and to determine if there would be enough interest to pursue a workshop. Chris agreed to continue researching the Problem-based workshop and will report at the next meeting. The taskforce also agreed that the Cooperative Learning refresher course would be appropriate. The recommendation for the Cooperative Learning workshop and a round table on Paideia will be taken to the TALC Leadership meeting on October 10th.

The next meeting was set for October 24th at 2:30 in the Blue room.