



Learning Assistance Program Advisory

Date: December 4, 2024

Meeting Notes

Meeting Place: Zoom

Called to Order: 1:00 PM

Chair(s): Weston Guerra

Note Taker: Otter.ai

Council Members Present: Jason Telander (VTC Enterprises), Rachael Mendoza (Hidden Wings), Victoria "Tori" Ortiz (Student Representative), Tammy Woodard-Welch (Department of Rehabilitation)

Guests: Alex de Jounge (Coordinator, Student Health Services), Anika Kitson (Associate Director, Disabled Students Program at UCSB), Kerry Runkle (LAP Counselor)

Discussion:

Discussion of ways to enhance disability services (DSPS/LAP) through networking to establish collaboration between Hancock College and community partners. This meeting fulfills the Title 5 DSPS requirement. A student representative is a required component of the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC), and this role is fulfilled by Tori Ortiz.

The Learning Assistance Program serves approximately 700 students. About 300 of those students are not requesting any accommodations. LAP provides learning disability (LD) testing, academic accommodations, and counseling support. LAP has one full-time LD Specialist, two DSPS Counselors, and a High-Tech Specialist.

Student Health Services offers: Mental health assessments (anxiety, depression, ADHD, etc.), ongoing counseling (MFT counselors), nursing services, and alternative services (acupuncture, massage, therapy animals).

The Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) supports individuals with documented disabilities by providing job training and employment support. There is also a new initiative to provide transition services in the local jail facility and for other justice-involved individuals.

VTC Enterprises focuses on employment opportunities and adult day programs. It is interested in expanding partnerships.

Hidden Wings (non-profit) provides support to young adults with autism. It provides mentorship and academic guidance. Staff provides transportation to Hancock College twice a week. Plans to establish a student support club on campus (Hancock).

Andrea Cabanas, a specialist for veterans and military-affiliated students, shared that many veteran students also use DSPS services. There are some challenges: difficulty obtaining the

diagnoses required for accommodations and the physical distance from the Student Health Services office, which can discourage students from accessing it.

Victoria “Tori” Ortiz, a first-year student, expressed her appreciation for the services provided by the organizations represented.

Anika from the University of California, Santa Barbara, shared that UCSB has a user-friendly online system with an online intake option (no appointment required). Prior accommodations (AAP) are helpful, as is the most recent third-party documentation. UCSB uses a custom (homegrown) system for accommodations management. There is encouragement for students to complete LD testing before transferring. UCSB uses peer mentors to reduce stigma and confusion about DSPS services. UCSB uses CODE (Commission on Disability Equity), a student-run advocacy group independent of Disability Services.

Weston, Anika, and Rachel discussed various tech tools, including Otter.ai, PureNote, Echo Pens, and AI transcription software such as Jamworks and Glean. The team also discussed the potential misuse of AI-generated content and the need for students to summarize rather than directly copy it.

Anika to introduce Weston to Linda Beers and Jana Garnett from Santa Barbara City College via e-mail.

Closing Notes: Weston acknowledged that this was his first DAC meeting as Director. Weston is also overseeing three departments, including Student Health Services, the Veteran Success Center, and the Learning Assistance Program (LAP/DSPS). The committee is set to meet annually. Committee membership is voluntary.