



Merritt College Counseling Department

Counselor Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2006

Meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. In attendance: Allen, Blackwell, Shriver, Scurry, Zielke, Papini. Guests: Cheryl Davis, Assessment Coordinator; Siri Brown, AFRAM; Nehanda Imara, AFRAM; Bob Macey, BIOL.

1. **AFRAM Update** Brown presented changes in AFRAM. Department will change its name to Africana Studies to be more inclusive of the African experience (Caribbean, Africa, etc.) but prefix will remain AFRAM. New courses for S07 include Muta Baruka (world known for his writing and social justice activities) teaching AFRAM 42, African American Writers and Nehanda Imara is teaching AFRAM 38, Environmental Racism/Justice, discussing the high levels of pollution and respiratory illnesses in West Oakland. AFRAM website now updated.
2. **BIOL Update** Macey presented on new program, Life Genomics. Will be teaching BIOL 36, Human Genetics as part of program S07. Goal is to develop large lab on campus. Opportunities for summer internships in Boston w/ Broad Institute. With just a few courses, students can apply for Research Assistant positions, paying \$38-\$48/hr, w/ senior RAs making more.
3. **Assessment and Orientation Update** Scurry and Davis presented on revised assessment schedule for 12/06 & 1/07. Assessment web site updated, including practice assessment questions. Began discussions about developing basic information for planning and advising sessions, to be continued at future meetings.
4. **Basic Skills Brainstorming** Group discussion about ways to enhance a Basic Skills program. Some suggestions included providing more tutors, especially those who are bilingual, more instructional assistants in classes, and keep library open longer hours.
5. **SEP Form Review** Reviewed latest draft of SEP form and made suggestions (to be incorporated into final revision).
6. **Part-time Counselor Re-hire Update** Blackwell reported on progress of task force, of which she is Chair. Distributed and reviewed observation and evaluation forms in current draft form and encouraged feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.