

Community College *of* Philadelphia

The Path to Possibilities™

Recommendation to Restructure the Department of Academic Computing and the Student
Academic Computer Centers (SACC)
December 2008

Recommendation:

1. Move the reporting function of the Student Academic Computer Centers from the Department of Academic Computing to the Learning Lab Department.
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This document recommends restructuring the Department of Academic Computing and the Student Academic Computer Centers (SACC) by changing the reporting function of the Student Academic Computer Centers (SACC) from the Department of Academic Computing to the Learning Lab Department in the Division of Educational Support Services.

This recommendation is based on a review of the roles and responsibilities of the staff in SACC, the possibility for enhancing service to students, and has the support of the faculty and staff in both the departments of Academic Computing and the Learning Lab.

The SACC plays an important role in the academic support of students. Likewise, as the title Educational Support Services suggests, the primary function of that division is intended to be academic support of student success. Units such as Academic Advising, the Learning Lab and the Center on Disability are excellent examples of units that are consistent with the concept of student academic support. Such a function is well aligned with a major theme in the College Strategic Plan as well as in the Academic Master Plan -- a student-centered culture.

Currently, SACC is located in the Department of Academic Computing. The Department of Academic Computing was moved to the Division of Flexible Learning Options and Academic Technology to better align it with other programs and services with a similar mission and focus. These include: Audiovisual Services, Distance Education, Regional Centers & Neighborhood sites and the Weekend College initiative. This Division's primary mission is to enhance education through technology and creative expansion of learning opportunities. Given this mission and focus, there is an inconsistency in having the SACC which provides support services to students in this new Division.

This proposal supports the placement of SACC in ESS and its separation from the Department of Academic Computing. There will be a positive benefit to realigning support service units around the mission, goals and objectives of the ESS Division. The new concept of a learning commons including the Learning Lab, the Library and the SACC conceptualizes and delivers

academic support around the needs of students. This is a successful model and is in place in many colleges and universities. The Northeast Regional Center is being expanded to include a physical space where these functions come together to form a seamless learning commons for students providing integrated services. On the main campus , the Library, Learning Lab and SACC are in close proximity and future physical plant renovations could enhance this concept even further. However, at the present time, with this realignment, the SACC instructional aides will be able to provide enhanced services to students and work more closely with their ESS colleagues.

SACC as Part of the Learning Lab Department

Once it seemed clear that the SACCs fit well within ESS while other activities of Academic Computing were a better fit with Flexible Learning Options and Academic Technology, a plan needed to be considered for where to locate SACC organizationally. In compliance with the Collective Bargaining agreement, instructional aides need to be part of an academic department. This proposal recommends that the instructional aides assigned to SACC report to the Learning Lab. The Learning Lab has completed a unit audit in the past year and the notion of an integrated learning commons was supported in that document. Having the SACC instructional aides as part of the Learning Lab provides greater possibilities for them to reconsider how they interact with students. The concepts were shared with members of the Academic Computing Department at their department meeting in April 2008 and again in September 2008 and with the department head of the Learning Lab and faculty at their meeting in September 2008. In addition, a joint meeting of both the Learning Lab department and the Academic Computing department was held on October 13, 2008 for a final review and discussion. Both departments expressed support of this proposal.

Appendix A
Proposed Division Units

Division of Educational Support Services

Primary Mission: Support for student academic success.

Units:

Academic Appeals	Developmental Education
Act Now	Dual Admissions
Advising	ESL
Assessment Center	Learning Lab
CAP	Library
Center on Disability	SACC
CLC	TRIO SSS

Division of Adult & Community Education

Primary Mission: Support education through outreach and community partnerships.

Units:

Adult Literacy Programs	KEYS
ACE	Lifelong Learning
AIC	New Choices/New Options
Advance at College	Tech Prep
Advanced Tech at College	TRIO Upward Bound
Gateway to College	

Division of Flexible Learning Options and Academic Technology

Primary Mission: Enhance education through technology and creative expansion of learning opportunities.

Units:

Academic Computing	Audiovisual Services
Distance Education	Regional Centers & Neighborhood sites
Weekend College	

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