Minutes
Achieving the Dream
Team Meeting
February 1, 2007

Members Present: L. Primus, C. Castillo, A. Kureczka, B. Lewis, J. Velez-Otero,
C. Soler, D. Brewington
Minute Taker: Patricia Lindo

Meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm and committee members were introduced.

I. **Chair Administrative Matters/Updates**
   1. Minutes – accepted and approved as it by common consent

   2. Educational Assistant (Latino Male) – L. Primus introduced Carlos Soler as the new EA for the BL&L Men Resource Center.

   3. Talk to Me Issue – L. Primus announced that The BL&L Men Resource Center was featured in the Winter 2007 Issue of “Talk to Me” a newsletter published by the National Achieving the Dream initiative.

   4. SERC Round Table (Black and Latino Male Forum) – L. Primus attended a SERC Round Table meeting. They are a consulting organization hired by Dept. of Higher Ed. to address black and Latino issues. They are mostly comprised of state department employees, high school principals, 2 legislators, and a department consultant. They were challenged a few years ago to address black and Latino issues. Their focus is K-12, mainly high school; they are not focused on the college level. L. Primus was impressed with them and wants to utilize them. They are having a 2 day conference in March which he is endorsing and will support. He recommends that C. Soler and D. Brewington should attend and utilize them to network and let folks know about us.

   5. Student Committee Representative – L. Primus informed members that Lilliam Martinez asked us to accept Mark Anigbo and invite him to the committee as a student representative. He started an internship at the LOB. A letter is going out to him from my office today. He can be a good source for us as a student representative and we will see if he accepts. We should have 2 or 3 student representative instead of 1 student representative.
II. **Black and Latino Men’s Center Report**  
1. General Update on Center Activity –  
   L. Primus noted, people are watching and asking for update, however it is too early to provide update, we are in the planning stage to establish the center.

2. Update on New Mexico Conference –  
   D. Brewington attended and will provide update at the March 15th meeting.

3. **Annual Black and Latino Male Conference Update**  
   - J. Velez contacted high school principals and 2 high schools have not communicated back. J. Velez has contacted his sister at HPHS to pass on email.
   - B. Lewis will meet with his contacts at Buckley H.S. to do FAFSA workshop with counselors next week.
   - C. Soler has a relationship with Sports & Science Academy but need more information to make contact.
   - L. Primus suggested contacting the administrative assistants at the high school to set up meetings with principals. L. Primus will send notification to magnet school. L. Primus announced that Patricia Lindo will call and setup meeting with high school principals.
   - L. Primus noted the total participants to attend conference will be 300; that is the auditorium seating capacity.
   - There will be 1 speaker in the morning (Latino) and 1 in the afternoon (black). Potential speakers are F. Betancourt and D. Jackson. Letters should be sent to them by Tuesday. Theme of conference is “From the Streets to the Honor Roll: How to Make College Work for you from Bottom to Top”. Theme was accepted by committee members.
   - 6 Workshops will be conducted. D. Brewington and C. Soler will do a workshop. C. Soler suggested doing a workshop he developed, the “7 Survival Laws to Success.” Other workshops will potentially be conducted by Ramon Hernandez, a professor at Central CT State University (C. Soler will contact him), Financial Aid, Dr. Groce, Ken Armstrong, and students.
   - L. Primus suggests that brochures and big postures need to be created and invitations should be sent to the 12 community colleges Dean of Student Services as a Save the Date. L. Primus will ask President to send email to faculty so that students can be released from classes to attend the conference.
   - B. Lewis will take care of the arrangements for the 9 rooms that will be used for the conference.
• Tentative conference schedule will be:
  9-9:30 – Registration & Breakfast
  9:30-10:30 Keynote Speaker
  10:30 – 11:45 Workshops (2 @ 45mins ea.)
  12:00-12:30 Lunch
  12:30-1:30 Afternoon Speaker
  1:30-2:00 Wrap Up

Agenda and other items will be discussed later

4. Spring 2007 Opening Reception
• Opening workshop will be this month on Feb. 15th from 11:30-1:30pm.
• Flyers need to be distributed and announced on plasma screen.
• C. Soler and D. Brewington can introduce the center and Dean Primus and others will assist in promoting and explaining the center.
• Food will be provided.
• In order to promote the center, the normal black & Latino session will be held and then 2 weeks later have another session to discuss Latino issues and 2 weeks later, another session to discuss black issues.
• Reception format was discussed and D. Brewington indicates that it will be set up as a round table with 1 facilitator and the focus question will be “how do you feel about being a student at Capital Community College.”

III. CSN Request
• CSN (Capital Student News). S. Minkler contacted L. Primus about Anna Afrin, a consulting specialist who works at Northeast Utilities. She is interested in knowing what we are doing to feature on a Spanish TV special. She wants to interview some student in progress. This would be a good way to advertise the center.
• S. Minkler says we could (1) use black and Latino as example for the new center; and (2) invite them to participate in round table discussion
• The committee thinks this is good to do, however, Carlos C. concern about cost.
• L. Primus suggested inviting Anna Afrin and S. Minkler at next meeting to get more specifics from them.

IV. IDS Course taught by B & L Coordinators
• L. Primus mentioned that Title V suggest that C. Soler and D. Brewington should teach courses as black & Latino. This would develop communication with black & Latinos and they would take advantage of there educational degrees here. This way there will be direct contact not only in advising but teaching as well.
• L. Primus will make a request to the academic dean.
• The members brainstormed a variety of ideas on how to introduce IDS course that they will teach.
L. Primus will go to the President and Dean Affleck to introduce this course. If enrollment is low for the course that D. Brewington and C. Soler will teach, the course will cancelled.

L. Primus will approach management to think about it for fall 2007. It will be geared to black & Latino men. If asked if curriculum will be changed a little – will say yes because AtD is suppose to change policy.

V. Corrections School/Career Fair

L. Primus announced in March they will be attending the corrections school/career fair.

L. Primus, Carlos C. and D. Brewington will be going. There will be a session in the morning and one in the afternoon. C. Castillo will be representing both Admission and BL&L Men Resource Ctr.

The Correctional Institute is in Enfield. Most of the gentlemen are getting out of prison. This will be a way to stimulate their need and to proceed them into education.

L. Primus will mention to management team and will talk more about presenting at the March meeting.

VI. Hartford Foundation Grant (B & L Male support)

L. Primus informed members that John McNamara thinks he can find us some more money. L. Primus read letter from J. McNamara to members.

L. Primus wants to take advantage of this by expanding on the narrative and AtD shortfalls. We have about $10,000 and our issue is worth more than $100,000. We will expand the narrative and present to John McNamara before the beginning of March.

Other Issue
Discussion of Financial Aid Issue – J. Velez Otero

J. Velez Otero noted that Part of grant from financial aid will not cover probation period. Need to extend 1 more semester so that student can improve. They need a 2.0 GPA and 2/3 withdraws due to poor grades and 1 more semester on probation would not let them lose financial aid eligibility. If they can get 1 more semester of financial aid by giving them a scholarship or grant to get them back in for another semester may help.

L. Primus suggested that J. Velez Otero should give C. Soler a list today. This issue will have to be addressed later; not sure if we can use the MRC fund for this.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 15, 2007 from 12:00-1:00pm

Meeting Adjourned 1:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Lindo