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Edwardsville Bulletin

To the Faculty and Staff of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Vol. 10, No. 41
May 30, 1978

MEMORANDUM

To: The University Community

From: Earl Lazerson 

Subject: Academic Resource Center

In my address to the University community in January, 1978, I indicated the need for this University to redress the educational deficiencies which exist among so many of our students at entry, and to establish clearly defined expectations regarding needed skills and competencies, specifically in the basic skills of reading, writing, calculating and speaking. I further indicated that I believed that a single unit should be formed to coordinate this effort and to provide these and other related services.

For this purpose I am establishing a unit to be called the Academic Resource Center. I will appoint a committee to aid me in screening applications for the position of Director of this unit. The Director will report to the Vice President and Provost and plan, organize, implement and direct a University-wide basic skills program which will offer corrective tutorial instruction in the improvement of reading, writing, calculating, speaking, listening and study skills. Initial emphasis will be placed on the skill development of incoming freshmen and transfer students. Future development will include services to students at all levels. The program will include academic advisement, counseling, and comprehensive tutoring in addition to possible required credit or non-credit course offerings for selected students.

The charge to the Director will be to:

1. Assess the current remediation and developmental efforts on the SIU-E campuses including an evaluation of the courses offered to remediate student skill deficiencies for the purpose of recommending a coordination and/or consolidation of efforts.
2. Design and implement an assessment plan to determine the scope of basic skills deficiencies among students on the SIU-E campuses.
3. Work with academic units to determine appropriate competency levels for success in academic programs.
4. Design and implement research studies and follow-up studies relative to the basic skills program.

5. Develop a model to assess programmatic effectiveness.
6. Design and implement an appropriate organizational structure for basic skills programming.
7. Develop a plan in cooperation with the Office of Admissions and Records to coordinate recruiting, admission and retention activities with the basic skills unit where appropriate.
8. Design and/or suggest and submit through the University Senate and/or other appropriate channels any additional credit or non-credit courses considered necessary to develop competency levels.
9. Design and/or select, with the assistance of appropriate faculty and staff, methodologies and materials to be used in the basic skills program.
10. Initiate, develop and submit proposals for external funding.
11. Explore and develop articulation agreements regarding skill competencies for upper level community college transfers to SIU-E.
12. Provide an appropriate forum for disseminating information to students and faculty and the surrounding community concerning skill development opportunities on the SIU-E campuses.
13. Explore the use of practicum and internship experiences in the basic skills program as a means for preparing teachers to work in urban schools and community college basic skills programs.
14. Perform other duties as assigned by the Vice President and Provost.