Ms. Quaas-Berryman called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes

M/S/P Dr. Reece moved approval and Ms. Sestini seconded the motion to approve the Minutes of September 18 and October 2, 2007. The Minutes were approved unanimously, as presented.

2. Establishing an Open Dialogue

Dr. Connal would like this committee to engage in open dialog beyond this meeting. She suggested that members update this committee with reports from conferences and workshops they have attended, as well as sharing articles they have read and find pertinent to the work of the committee. Dr. Connal would like to see Talon Net be the project site so that we are all working together to create a knowledge base that goes beyond this group.

A. Ms. Robles reported on a recent meeting in Sacramento she attended on mentoring in the classroom. They are looking for ways to get software on line that is free. She commented that adult learners tend to get more focused when they know ahead of time what they are going to learn.

B. Ms. Sestini commented about the things that are being done at Mira Costa College to increase their pass rates in mathematics. They are developing an educational specialist position and using student tutors in the classroom. They claim to have a 75% pass rate insures the student is ready for the next level.

Dr. Connal suggested putting aside time at the beginning of each committee meeting for reports from the members.
3. Review Main Discussion Points From October 2, 200, Meeting

Dr. Connal asked to hold this item until a future meeting.

4. Continue Discussion of Report (Sections A & B)

A.4 Ms. Chomiak commented that there are more than 90 different instruments being used throughout the state for assessment. Cerritos College uses Accuplacer now, but it has gone up about $19,000 in cost. We are looking for more mandatory testing and looking at what it is used for. Ms. Chomiak will be working on this issue with state-wide groups at an upcoming Matriculation conference.

Cerritos College does not have institutional polices in place to facilitate compliance of necessary developmental course work in the educational sequence. We need to have all the courses available for students with adult education being able to back up those classes. It is generally felt that students will “vote with their feet” and attend classes elsewhere if we impose mandatory assessment testing and our enrollment numbers will suffer.

Ms. Robles does not want to create a process that will put roadblocks in front of students that will hinder their success. Mr. Swanson commented that we have students at Cerritos who come here because of the quality of our teachers, educational programs, etc., and feels there is insufficient proof that mandatory assessment will impact our enrollment.

B.1 Ms. Quaas-Berryman commented that an orientation DVD that students could bring home to their parents could bridge the gap for new students. Ms. Sestini noted that there is already an on-line “DVD” in place that could be expanded. Ms. Romero feels this would be a good way to involve parents of “first generation” students. Thinking outside the box should start with family.

Ms. Chomiak suggested we have to take care to be sensitive of our students. We have many students who come here during the first two weeks of the semester. Ms. Parsons favors offering latitude the first time a student enrolls, but if they don’t progress and need to repeat
course work, they would have to follow a more prescribed regimen through assessment.

A.5 A comprehensive system of support services exists within learning communities. Ms. Sestini referred to documented success with CG classes and the learning community and suggested taking every ENGL 52 class and pairing it with a learning community.

Ms. Helberg commented that learning communities strives to integrate academic and student support services in their programs. Puente and Summer Bridge are just two venues within Counseling. Dr. Connal feels that integration between services and instruction must be part of the classroom.

A.6 The college is divided on recruitment and hiring adjunct faculty. Many faculty are not hired until the last minute and some don’t want to teach developmental education. Ms. Codd feels that unless we change some internal thinking and make recommendations that have teeth behind them, nothing is going to change. We need to hire more full-time faculty but are told we have no funds. Ms. Chomiak agreed that without the support of the institution, we will have no framework in which to training and hire new faculty.

A.7 Ms. Chomiak feels we need to do more to help students know what is expected of them at the college. We have to teach these things through some type of orientation. We need to cross the boundaries between high school and college. We should be working with high schools to create a “bridge” program to integrate their students to our campus. We will need money and support from the institution to make this happen.

Dr. Follett wants a firm commitment from the institution for our Basic Skills report. Dr. Connal noted that this is an important issue and the State has allocated funds for basic skills. Mr. Swanson commented that ENGL 52 is one of the basic skills courses and that from 1-3 p.m. on Tuesday/Thursday only two sections are offered because we have no rooms available. He asked about the District’s commitment to provide space for classes in basic skills.
The committee will meet again at 2 PM in LC-62 (FRRC), on Tuesday, November 6, 2007.

Ms. Quaas-Berryman adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.