

PROPOSAL – ACS INFORMATION FLUENCY PROJECT – 2002
From Birmingham-Southern College

1. Title of the proposed project, workshop, course, program or event

Phase I – Development of an Information Services Support Model

2. Names of leaders and contact information - including e-mail addresses

Mr. Billy Pennington, Director of the Library bpenning@bsc.edu
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3. Brief abstract of the project

The Information Fluency Task Force on Birmingham-Southern College campus has agreed that the principles of information fluency can be furthered for all college constituents on our campus by bringing the various support facilities on campus together philosophically and perhaps at some point physically. In addition, there is agreement on the need for other such services not presently available. This grant proposal would provide an opportunity to develop a plan for accomplishing this.

There are presently a Writing Center and a Speech Center available for members of the College community, but they neither work in concert nor are located in proximity. This proposal would explore ways these centers and other desired developmental efforts could be integrated so they could work together and build on one another. The Task Force has identified six developmental activities that could support the curriculum and the principles of information fluency: writing, speaking, critical thinking, data analysis, technology, and research.

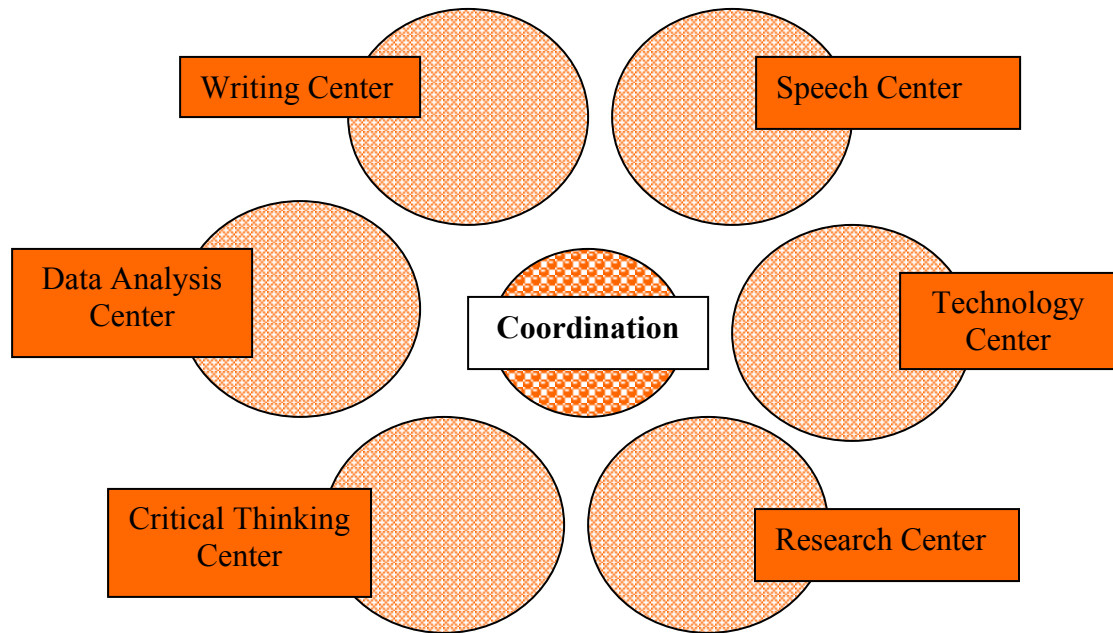
The grant would enable the Task Force to explore ways of accomplishing this goal, to develop a plan, and to seek additional funding from other sources for carrying out the plan.

4. Rationale

This grant could be a model for other ACS institutions. It would bring together all the “players” at the institution who are involved in different aspects of information fluency and coordinate their efforts in a way that could only encourage utilization of all. By the same token, coordination and communication among the different activities would optimize all of the activities.

Ideally all of the activities would be located in a single space, or at least in proximity, where a member of the College community could come for assistance and guidance in working through an idea and developing it into a finished product (presentation). Thus all or several of the principles of information fluency identified above could be utilized in this process. The individual could come to such a center for assistance in formulating an idea and beginning the research process. After more work, he/she might return for guidance in developing his/her ideas into a presentation, which might take the form of an oral presentation, a written document, or an electronic product, such as PowerPoint. If data were involved, the individual could seek direction in gathering and analyzing that data.

The Task Force and other involved faculty would also explore the possibility of seeking grant funds for remodeling existing space, perhaps in the library, where all of these activities could be brought together for the convenience of those seeking such services and for staffing such a space, perhaps with student mentors such as presently are utilized in the writing and speech centers.



We envision a single space on campus where a member of the community could come for help working through an idea in an early draft form. After more work on that idea, the member could return for assistance in researching the idea. With much more work, that same person might return for help in creating, for instance, a PowerPoint. When the visual is ready, the member may need help with either the paper to accompany the presentation or practice giving a speech using the visual as back up. It may well be that a member would come for one area of assistance or any combination.

This project would proceed through four phases:

Phase I – Goal Setting and Articulation of the Concept – Summer and Fall, 2002
ACS IF Grant

Phase II – Grant Writing – Fall/Spring, 2002-2003

Phase III – Implementation – Summer, Fall, 2003

Phase IV – Initiation and Adjustments - Interim/Spring, 2004

Implementation of this Information Services concept is possible if BSC receives funding to spend time carefully crafting the goals and purposes with the stakeholders. The initial IF team would work to this end. Then they would broaden the base of ownership by involving others in the campus community to gain more ideas and build support.

3. Preliminary description, including:

- a. number of days an event or the project will last
1 full day and 2 half days with time in between for subcommittee work
- b. agenda
During the summer of 2002, the eight BSC Information Fluency task force members will meet for a full day to brainstorm and to begin to build consensus on the idea. The main idea will be parceled out to subcommittees for expansion and refinement. Then the task force will meet with different members of the community including faculty, administration, staff, and students on two different half-day sessions. These days will afford an opportunity to further develop the concept and the plan for implementation. It is anticipated that by the end of the last work session, the task force will be prepared to write grants for funding to permit implementation of the plan.
- c. strategies for recruiting participants
The current BSC IF task force of eight people would be brought in for the first meeting. For the next meetings more of the shareholders of the areas to be affected by this concept, administration, and students would be included.
- d. target audience
The BSC community

4. Plans for follow-up and evaluation

After this grant, the team and campus grant writer would seek funding from outside sources based on the initial plan. Funding would be sought for making the necessary changes to the existing facility and adding the personnel to staff the center to make it productive.

5. Plans for dissemination of results to the rest of ACS and beyond

Members of the ACS community would be kept informed on each phase of this project for possible use on their own campus through a web page off the BSC library page. Members of this larger community would be welcome observers at any time.

6. Suggestions for replication at other campuses

If another campus would desire to obtain a similar center, any and all documents would be shared. Further, any member of the BSC IF team would be available as consultants.

7. Preferred time of year for event: weekend during the academic year? summer? -- be as specific as you can be (if using ACS Tech Center facilities, note that limited dates are available)

June, 2002 = Day One / September, 2002 = Day Two / November, 2002 = Day Three