

## Final Report, Spring 2018

### Program Statistics

- SLA was offered with 12 courses and 26 sections, compared to the 15 courses and 30 sections offered last spring. This is down three courses and four sections from last spring.
- There were 17 facilitators, 3 of which were first-time facilitators.
- A total of 14 faculty members participated in SLA, compared to 19 faculty members last spring.
- SLA served 625 students in Spring 18. This compares to 688 students in Spring 17.

### New Courses and Initiatives

- MATH 114 is a new course this semester.

### Outcomes for Spring 2018

There were several courses that stood out this semester, including:

- The pass rate for SLA in EEET 124 was 100%, which was 25% higher than last spring.
- The pass rate for SLA in MATH 010 was 88%, which was 19% higher than last spring.
- The pass rate for SLA in MATH 114 was 82%, which was 2% higher than the non-SLA sections.
- The pass rate for SLA in CHEM 114 was nearly identical to the SLAC group, but with a much lower rate of withdrawals and failures.
- The pass rate for SLA in CHEM 122 was 94%, which was 1% higher than the SLAC and 27% higher than the NSLA group. This despite lower high school GPAs and ACT scores.

### Challenges

- The MATH 110 SLA had a pass rate of 63%, which compares to a pass rate of 71% last year.
- The MATH 115 SLA had a pass rate of 50%, while the NSLA and SLAC groups had pass rates of 86% and 64% respectively.
- The MATH 226 SLA had a pass rate of 38%, compared to a pass rate of 97% last year.  
NOTE: The previous professor retired.

### Student Comments

- My SLA teacher is amazing and helps me understand the hard material extremely well.
- The instructor is very knowledgeable in this area. They were always open to conversation and was able to answer questions clearly and consistently. SLA was beneficial to my learning.
- Having SLA at late hours is the worst because we as students be tired. It needs to be right after lecture.

- He was a great facilitator, he went above and beyond what he was required to do. He stayed after class sometimes more than 30 minutes to make sure his students fully understood material. Without him I probably would not have gotten an A in this course.
- It is a great opportunity for anyone that is struggling with the course because it gets broken down step-by-step and you get some one-on-one time with your SLA facilitator, if needed.
- I am a Junior which was finishing a pre-req for my major. I understand the need to help incoming freshman prepare for college classes but there isn't a need to treat them like children with the SLA rules.
- I loved SLA. Our instructor for SLA went into more detail and broke down the problems better than our actual instructor for the class. She was very patient and kind.
- She is really great and very helpful. It is much easier to understand the material when she explains it, also much easier to ask questions with the small class size.
- SLA was a good tool to help me study & prepare for upcoming quizzes & tests from the practice worksheets.
- I really enjoyed SLA since it helped me understand the course better and helped me prepare for quizzes. It was really nice having SLA right before class as well since we were able to review before lecture.
- I would recommend SLA to everyone that slightly struggles with math.

### **Facilitator Comments**

#### **1. What additional training and support do you feel would help you in your facilitator role?**

- *None at this time*
- *None*
- *Nothing – we can be told only so much of what it is going to be like, but until we actually do it, we don't know what it's like.*
- *I joined the program spring semester, so our training day was not the same as the training for new fall facilitators. I think it would have been helpful to have a mock SLA day in training, like what is done in the fall.*
- *How to manage very large groups of students.*
- *None! 😊*
- *None 😊*
- *How to handle students who find SLA attendance policy unnecessary and then just come to class because they have to and not because they feel it's helpful.*
- *None*

#### **2. What were some of the difficulties you experienced being a facilitator?**

- *Distracted students have been an issue. Can't concentrate or remember key thought from previous conversation. They have to be told something over 10 times for it to stick. It used to be 3 times!*
- *None*
- *Working with challenging students – they don't care and it's hard to address it when you are trying to help the other students who want to be there. Working with students who missed class and expect me to teach them concepts instead of going to office hours.*

- *I had a few challenging students in my SLA. They were not committed to their grades, unmotivated, and not accepting of help. So it was a challenge to get them to accept the SLA program. That was the most difficult challenge I experienced in my SLA.*
- *How to manage students who don't want to learn the material/students who only strive for passing.*
- *Enforcing attendance was super difficult this semester. The amount of absences and excuses were exponentially higher compared to fall. Working with students who didn't attend class was probably my biggest problem because they wouldn't keep up on material and it set us behind a lot.*
- *Students who had me as a facilitator in the previous section took me way less seriously this time around. It was wonderful having the students comfortable with me because it allowed them to ask more questions and get help, but it was definitely harder keeping students on track & enforcing policy.*
- *Making them excited to come to SLA, and also trying to convince them to go to lecture because I had very low attendance policies in lecture. Also my professor didn't care very much about SLA and the help it was offering.*
- *Maintaining the attendance policy.*
- *Challenging / disrespectful students.*

**3. Discuss two things you enjoyed about being a facilitator and found rewarding this semester.**

- *The students have been a fun group. Eager to learn and those that have initiative have been a joy to teach.*
- *Getting paid and keeping familiarization with the course material.*
- *My students appreciated me and my hard work. When my students would talk to me about their grades and ask if it is still possible to pass and I would assure them they could if they tried hard enough and directed them to the tutoring center – and they felt relieved by that.*
- *Seeing students light up when I teach them a new method they find easier. Seeing students do dramatically better on a test compared to the previous one.*
- *I loved watching the students grow and improve throughout the semester. It was so rewarding when some of them would come up to me after a quiz and show me their improved grades from last quiz. Also, I had so many comments about how helpful the SLA was to the students, not only to help clarify topics from lecture, but also to help them prepare for the quizzes.*
- *I've gotten a lot of hugs, emails, and thank yous from this group which has meant the world to me considering that this is normally a thankless job. Also seeing what SLA meant to a few kids. There were a couple girls who stood up to a disruptive boy because it meant a lot to them to get the help they needed.*
- *Seeing the student progress throughout the entire year was honestly amazing. Having seen them come in as babies and progress and get smarter gave me a lot of purpose. Having the students be comfortable enough with me that they not only wanted academic help, but they even asked for my advice and cared about my opinion.*

- *Helping a student succeed when they were about to give up after taking the class for a third time, and also being thanked for the help and knowing they felt I was making a difference.*
- *Helping students with their questions.*
- *When my students would suddenly “get it”. Actually helping.*

**4. What other activities, services, support, or training would you like to see occur in the SLA program?**

- *How to create short, powerful, interactive PPT presentations to engage the students.*
- *None*
- *N/A*
- *Facilitators sharing which methods work best in their workshops more.*
- *I think there should be more training for dealing with students with disabilities (of any sort). Also, I think it would be more fun to implement a kind of reward, like the SLA with the best attendance gets a pizza party at the end of the year, or something like that to also help motivate students to attend SLA.*
- *Maybe time management for SLA facilitators? I had to learn the hard way to fit all the planning into my schedule.*
- *How to plan ahead on SLA workshops!*
- *What to say when they ask about attendance policies and how to make them more excited about coming to SLA.*
- *(none written)*
- *It would be great if we had a study tips person present to all the classes.*

**5. In what ways could the supervisor/parapro have been more helpful to you this semester?**

- *Everyone is awesome!*
- *None*
- *Nothing – Karen and Kim are great!*
- *The coordinator was very helpful this semester, I do not have any suggestions for change.*
- *More resources on how to manage disruptive students.*
- *None! 😊*
- *None 😊*
- *I found the coordinator to be helpful as possible already.*
- *None, Kim was very helpful*

**Faculty Comments**

**1. What information shared by the SLA facilitator about the way students are receiving or understanding your course material has had the greatest impact on your instructional process?**

- *There was little feedback initiated by the facilitator, had to keep asking.*

- *When I am unable to elaborate on certain material or run out of time, I feel reassured that they will hear it again and be able to have another 'lecture' setting to absorb the information. It usually clicks the second or third time.*
- *I did not receive any information from the SLA facilitator about the way students were receiving or understanding my course material.*

**2. Do you feel being involved in the SLA Program has helped to improve your own teaching? In what ways? (Please be specific.)**

- *No*
- *There were many ways she was able to describe things in a different light or in a different circumstance. It will help attune me to new ways to explain the information. I am also finding different activities that I can use as well that we brainstorm about.*
- *I feel like being involved in the SLA program helps improve my teaching in that it makes me aware of at-risk students and their needs. I see students in my non-SLA supported classes that should be in an SLA supported classroom.*
- *No*

**3. Can you offer any suggestions about additional information, skills, or strategies that might be helpful for future SLA Faculty orientation/training sessions?**

- *Each semester, provide both the course instructor and the SLA facilitator a listing of the duties for both.*
- *My suggestion for future SLA faculty is to allow the SLA facilitator to use the class material as he or she sees fit, and have the facilitator provide practice test prior to classroom tests.*
- *No*

**4. Is there anything that the SLA Program Coordinator can do to assist you more in your involvement with the SLA Program? Is communication, training, information, etc. satisfactory?**

- *I feel the communication is adequate. The only thing I would have liked to have known is that I needed to send out a survey to the students about the facilitator. I did not receive that memo/link (this is my first year as faculty).*
- *None.*
- *No*

**5. Please share any additional comments you feel would help in the evaluation of the SLA Program.**

- *Facilitators should meet regularly, weekly or at least bi-weekly with the course's instructor. Please develop a set of questions that the SLA facilitator should have*

*ready to give the answer to the course instructor at each regularly scheduled meeting.*

- *This is a great program! I would almost like to increase the percentage cut-off for students who need to attend. It would have helped even more of my students.*
- *Kim, Karen, and Teresa, please keep up the great work in providing a great program. Structured Learning Assistance is a much needed and valued program, and FSU students would suffer from its' loss or reduction.*
- *N/A*

### **Training**

- New facilitator training was held on January 5, 2018.