

Delta State University
Student Engagement Committee
Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Present: Corlis Snow, David Salinero, Paul Hankins, Elise Jenkins, and Paul Starkey

Absent: David Hebert (attending Faculty Retention meeting)

Meeting Time: 4:00 – 5:00

Assessment

Elise Jenkins reported that she and OIT are still working on the NSSE population file. Additionally, Delta State is now registered to participate in the upcoming FSSE assessment.

Service Learning

The SEC has agreed to fund a service learning reception for new faculty. Dr. Hankins will ask that this reception feature some sort of presentation in order to include it as a QEP-related distribution. The date for this reception is TBA.

Faculty Retention

Earlier in the day, Dr. Hebert emailed the committee several proposals from the Faculty Retention Committee. He asked that we look at the proposals and make any suggestions. The committee spent a few minutes perusing the documents and made no substantive suggestions.

Staff Orientation

Dr. Starkey informed the committee that Greg Redlin, VP for Finance, planned to institute some sort of HR-flavored orientation for administrative staff. The committee discussed the possibility of letting all HR-related matters go through Mr. Redlin's program while the SEC can focus more on teaching and faculty-related issues.

Specific Orientation Details

- With exams, graduation, and the holidays all soon to follow Thanksgiving, the committee agreed that all orientation sessions should be concluded by Thanksgiving week.
- Dr. Starkey agreed to submit a course description for GST 600.
- The committee discussed financial stability. The course will create a sustainable funding mechanism through its credit-hour production. Additionally, with the course running through Graduate and Continuing Studies, revenue can be recycled back into the program.
- Figures: With \$222.00 being generated per credit hour, each "student" would bring in \$666.00.
- How will the SEC use this money? Since GST 600 will be a non-profit course, all generated funds will flow back into the course – ideally through research micro-grants or through professional development funds (such as the Kent and Janice Wyatt Fund) where faculty

requests will be judged on merit. The committee was unanimously in favor of this idea. Once the SEC disbands, the existing SEC line item can also go towards faculty development funds.

- Dr. Starkey recommended that future SEC incarnations may want to focus on community-based learning.
- An introductory module will have to be added to the orientation to let participating faculty know what to expect.

Memo to Academic Council

Dr. Starkey recommended that the SEC should write a memo to Academic Council outlining its proposal and highlighting any financial considerations. Dr. Hankins agreed to write this memo and then circulate it to the committee for comments.

Once this program has been “blessed” by Academic Council, current faculty will be able to inform incoming and potential faculty of what will be expected of new hires.

Course topics likely to be included in the orientation:

- Tenure
- Advising
- Writing Across the Curriculum
- Service Learning
- Living in the Delta
- QEP
- Assessment and Outcomes
- Instructional Pedagogy
- Technology