

Delta State University
Student Engagement Committee
Wednesday, October 18, 2006

Present: Corlis Snow, David Salinero, Paul Hankins, Greg Hospodor (Chair), David Hebert, Elise Jenkins, and Paul Starkey
Meeting Time: 3:35-4:40

Review of Assignments

Dr. Hospodor described each element of the action plan and then reviewed the assignments made during the previous week's meeting. The committee focused on the following elements:

Service Learning

The committee questioned if the university had an effective way to measure outcomes of courses that have service learning components. Part of the service learning committee's work may be to institute such measures.

Faculty Orientations

- ♦ Dr. Hospodor reported that all deans responded positively to the idea of having a mentorship program for new faculty. The committee agreed that this program should be officially tied to the formation of the faculty orientation.
- ♦ Elise Jenkins reported that new faculty members who filled out evaluation forms at the SEC's ROMEA session all pointed to the need for some sort of overview/orientation to Delta State for incoming faculty.
- ♦ The committee continued to discuss whether or not the orientation would be a frontloaded one-day event or stretched out over a semester.
 1. Those in favor of the semester-long approach argued that research supports an extended program with several sessions. Additionally, too much information during a short period of time would cause information overload and very little would resonate with the new faculty. Members believed that this project would succeed as long as it was well planned and perceived as valuable by the faculty.
 2. Those in favor of the frontloaded program argued that an extended program would be burdensome especially during an already hectic semester. The focus should be on an introductory session that lays the groundwork and provides a resource base for the new faculty. Additionally, the mentor program would play a large role in the orientation's aftermath.

Would the orientation be mandatory or on a volunteer basis?

- ♦ Understanding that new faculty might have varying interests and needs, members suggested the possibility of a buffet-style approach where in addition to "core events," new faculty could choose which additional sessions they attended.
- ♦ The meeting ended with all members agreeing to sketch out a model of how the program should progress.