

Delta State University
Student Engagement Committee
Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Present: Corlis Snow, David Salinero, Paul Hankins, Greg Hospodor, David Hebert, Elise Jenkins, and Paul Starkey
Meeting Time: 3:30-4:00

FYI

Dr. Starkey passed out copies of the article “Graduation Rates and Student Success,” which takes a closer look at graduation rates and their value as an “accountability indicator.” This article was a follow-up report to a study titled *Student Success in State Colleges and Universities: A Matter of Culture and Leadership* done by AASCU.

New Chair

Dr. Thornell has asked Paul Hankins to serve as chair for the remainder of the 2006-2007 year. Dr. Hankins agreed.

Dr. Thornell’s Initial Response to the Action Plan

The following represents Dr. Thornell’s questions/concerns to the committee:

- A. Who would be involved in the program? (both as participants and deliverers)
- B. What are the main sticking points?
- C. What are the downsides?
- D. We may want to consider restating the program to show how it specifically addresses faculty performance, retention, and satisfaction.
- E. How does this program satisfy the QEP goals?

The following represents the committee’s discussion on some of the points:

The primary “downside” will be the insistence of the program being mandatory.

Instead of an “orientation,” the committee discusses the potential of creating a graduate level course that would serve as the vehicle for delivery of the various modules. Dr. Hebert agreed to do some preliminary research on how similar programs affect retention rates.

The committee should think about creating an incentive program for the faculty. Participants could be given a stipend (as they do for the Faculty Technology Institute) or a small travel budget, perhaps. This, along with the library funds for new faculty, would create a considerable financial incentive for participating.

The committee then considered funding for the program. Members discussed the possibility of using some of the SEC budget or carving from a different part of the university's budget. Dr. Hospodor then pointed out that the program will more than pay for itself with funding generated from the course's credit hour production.

SEC

The committee questioned what would happen to the SEC once its five-year term ended. Members discussed the possibility of the Champions morphing into a faculty development committee that could oversee the new faculty course's administration and development.