

Delta State University
Student Engagement Committee
Tuesday, December 5th, 2006

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

Meeting Time: 1:00-2:00

Distributions

Dr. Hankins encouraged members to report what activities have occurred in their respective colleges that would support faculty development per the QEP. The technology requirement is handled aptly by the Faculty Technology Institute.

Dr. Hankins also reviewed the QEP's insistence on the gradual increase of advanced technology in the curriculum and its documentation in course syllabi.

NSSE

NSSE will be given in February 2007 (or later). The committee discussed ways to publicize the survey without using any "direct contact with students." Flyers, press releases, faculty announcements, and email all seem acceptable. Incentives can be offered. (Regarding email, OKRAmail should be used, but a discussion ensued on how to get students accustomed to using this official form of electronic communication)

Feedback from Dr. Thornell

Dr. Thornell approved of the course approach to the faculty orientation program tentatively set to be run by the Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies. The committee needs to have a course description and course proposal to Academic Council around February.

Our presentation on how to house the program will determine its campus-wide credibility and viability. The committee felt like it would garner the most support if it had the backing of Academic Affairs.

Members then had a lengthy "nuts and bolts" discussion on infrastructure. Should a center be created to house the program? Who will run it? Should the position, Vice President of Academic Affairs, be resurrected? Asking that question posed many others: Where would the money come from to support this position? Should it simply be an added responsibility of an already existing position? What happens if we create a new position and hire someone only to have the program meet failure? Should the SEC morph into a new body that will administer this program?

While members made significant headway on the talking points, they could reach no firm decision on these questions.

Other Topics

- ♦ Dr. Hospodor reported that the WAC Committee was stalling again without any firm leadership.
- ♦ With Dr. Houston's advisement, the committee needs to start the conversation regarding the modified first-year program. Once we get the faculty orientation up and running, we will hopefully have a crop of faculty who will serve as mentors for the GST 100 course.
- ♦ Dr. Starkey reiterated the importance of the committee "dividing and conquering" the SACS conference so that the committee can get as much information as possible.