PRESENT: Paul Hankins (Chair), Barry Campbell, Jennie Gunn, Elaine Lambert, Paul Starkey, Darlene Crone-Todd.

ABSENT: Lynn Byrd.

Call to Order

The meeting of the Student Engagement Committee was called to order at 3:00 PM on 10/25/2005 in Bailey 200 on the DSU campus. Minutes from the meeting on 10/4/2005 were read and approved.

Items Discussed

Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) activity
Instructional technology requirements for QEP, Fall, 2005
DSU Administration support for institutionalizing community engagement/service learning
SEC website availability
Syllabus survey of technology use in DSU courses
Fostering a positive academic climate at DSU
Promotion of community-based learning via campus event

Detailed Discussion

Writing Across the Curriculum Committee (WAC) activity

Paul Hankins asked if there was any information available about the activities of the WAC this semester. Elaine Lambert responded that WAC had not had any meetings as of this date in Fall, 2005, and volunteered to continue pursuing information about WAC activities. The role of SEC in encouraging WAC to meet was discussed. Larry Magee was identified by Paul Hankins as the contact person for SEC communication with WAC. In response to a question posed by Darlene Crone-Todd, Paul Starkey reported that Academic Affairs was the organizational unit to which Magee is attached.

Instructional technology requirements for QEP, Fall, 2005

Paul Hankins mentioned that he had sent out an e-mail about meeting the Fall, 2005 QEP instructional technology standards. TaskStream will be used to meet the College of Education’s goal. Jennie Gunn reported that the School of Nursing had not yet met their QEP instructional technology requirement; Lynn Byrd was absent, so no information was available for the College of Business. Training in the use of smart classrooms/smart carts...
had been designated as the goal for the various units in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Paul Hankins and Barry Campbell divided up the duties for contacting the chairs of these departments for information about A&S faculty instructional technology training.

**DSU Administration support for institutionalizing community engagement/service learning**

Paul Hankins asked Paul Starkey if there was any feedback from the DSU administration about the SEC drive to institutionalize community-based learning at DSU. Paul Starkey indicated that Dr. Thornell had indicated that he supported the initiative. Paul Hankins raised the issue of conference attendance by SEC members, and queried the group for feelings about establishing attendance at a service learning conference as a goal for SEC. Paul Starkey recommended that the SEC maintain its focus on the broad area of student engagement. More discussion of conference attendance followed, and Paul Hankins assigned the committee the task, by the week of November 15th, of each member suggesting two conferences for consideration for attendance. The SACS meeting was mentioned as a possibility by Paul Starkey (he will be attending it), although the timing of the SACS meeting may not fit the schedules of SEC members (first week of December; Finals Week). Several suggestions were made by Darlene Crone-Todd and Paul Starkey about where to learn online about various conferences that would meet SEC member needs.

**SEC website availability**

Paul Hankins reminded SEC members that the website is (sec.deltastate.edu) now available. Questions concerning the main link for this page were put aside due to Lynn Byrd’s absence from the meeting.

**Syllabus survey of technology use in DSU courses**

In response to a question from Paul Hankins, Paul Starkey mentioned that there was no news as of yet about a request for information from department chairs about the inclusion in course syllabuses of information about technology-based instruction in courses.

**Fostering a positive academic climate at DSU**

Last year’s SEC began discussions of addressing student conduct at DSU, and Paul Hankins asked Darlene Crone-Todd to provide this year’s SEC with some background about the previous year’s work on this matter. The discussion of student conduct has emerged as part of a discussion about ways to foster at DSU a more positive academic climate, the creation of a community of scholars. Darlene Crone-Todd described how last year’s SEC had discussed development of a plan to improve student conduct by offering positive examples, rather than providing the students with a list of “don’ts”. A more involved discussion of existing policies directed at maintaining a positive academic climate at DSU ensued. Jennie Gunn reported that students in the School of Nursing had designed and voted in their own conduct code last year (and she volunteered to bring in a
copy). Elaine Lambert suggested involving the DSU Student Government Association in order to obtain student input into this effort. Darlene Crone-Todd asked SEC members to consider whether or not student expectations concerning faculty academic behavior should be addressed at the same time. SEC meeting participants were in agreement that the focus here should be maintained on improving the academic environment at DSU.

Paul Hankins announced that this concluded the scheduled agenda for the SEC meeting.

**Promotion of service learning/civic engagement via campus event**

In response to the SEC chair’s request for discussion of any further business, Paul Starkey asked for the SEC members to define more precisely what exactly the SEC would like to do in promoting the institutionalization of community-based learning at DSU. A discussion followed that focused on what sort of campus event would be used to “kick-off” this effort. Integration of a campus community-based learning activity with other campus activities, such as Academic Honors Day, the “May We Present” presentation of faculty research, and proposed campus events defining excellence at DSU, was suggested. Paul Hankins asked for thoughts about what the SEC role should be in promotion of such an event. Jennie Gunn questioned whether or not another committee on campus could be involved in directing this activity.

No further business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

The next SEC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 2005, at 3:00 P.M., in Bailey 200.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry G. Campbell