

Student Academic Success Committee
Meeting Minutes—April 20, 2007
End of Year Report—May 4, 2007

Persons in attendance: Sarah Kirk (Chair), Trish Jenkins, Tom Skore, Linda Morgan, Trish Grega, Catherine d'Albertis
Absent: Joan O'Leary, Kathleen Voge, Kamal Narang, Connie Fuess, Dave Fitzgerald
Guest: Michael Buckland

Item 1

Motion and Recommendations to Improve Advising at UAA

The Student Academic Success Committee agreed to bring a motion about advising as a priority for the Provost's new Student Success Taskforce to the vote of Faculty Senate at the May 4 Senate meeting. After a discussion with the Faculty Senate E-Board, as well as a meeting with Provost Driscoll and Vice-Chancellor Lazzell, the motion and recommendations were slightly altered. This final version is presented here for a vote by Faculty Senate.

MOTION

"The Provost's charge to the Student Success Taskforce should include a focus on the following:

- *student (college) readiness;*
- *advising;*
- *the role of student success in review of faculty; and,*
- *acting as a liaison to Statewide initiatives and discussions surrounding 'student success.'*

In particular, we recommend that the priority task of the Student Success Taskforce for AY2007-2008 is to focus on advising, specifically on increasing the number of students who get advising and improving the advising for all UAA students."

We believe advising at UAA should be guaranteed for first-year, first-time, degree-seeking students, as well as for all under-prepared students (especially during high-demand periods such as summer). This may best occur through a tiered approach and focus. **The first phase (Fall 2008) will guarantee to the students in these specific groups the ability to attend Orientation and/or meet with their advisor prior to the start of classes.** Phase 2 (Fall 2009) will guarantee advising for these students both before Fall Semester and before Spring Semester registration. Phase 3 (Fall 2010) will guarantee advising for these students before Fall Semester, before Spring Semester registration, and before the next Fall's (Spring Semester mid-semester) registration.

In order to accomplish this approach to enhanced advising, the following items must be in place:

- Definitions of "advising" and what needs to be improved at UAA in order to meet these definitions.
- An estimate of the necessary funding and resources needed to increase and improve advising.
- Infrastructure that is adequately funded to increase the availability of advising, including hiring professional advising staff and providing workload assignments for faculty.
- Summer advising conducted by UAA faculty that is supported and adequately funded.

- Professional development items (such as attending CAFÉ’s Best Practices Series for New Faculty and the Faculty Advising Module Series) that may replace the Service component of first-year faculty workloads so that they have the opportunity to learn how to be good advisors.
- Addition of third status in Banner for students who are “degree-seeking,” but who missed the admission deadline. This would allow students to accurately identify their educational goals and be identified by advisers.

Item 2

Draft of the Reading Requirements Survey of UAA Faculty

Trish Grega provided SAS with a preview of the UAA faculty survey that was introduced and approved at the February SAS meeting. The purpose of the survey is to ascertain academic reading requirements and expectation in 100 and 200 level classes at UAA. SAS will serve as a focus group for this survey during May and the survey will be distributed to faculty teaching 100 and 200 level courses during Fall 2007.

Item 3

SAS Business Report for AY06-07

SAS briefly discussed our goals and accomplishments for this academic year. We noted that virtually 100% of our time was spent on one goal: To focus on advising at UAA. This included the following:

- The committee read and discussed Dave Veazey’s “STARS Report” that he presented to Statewide during the summer.
- The Chair of SAS presented on “Student Success and College Readiness” at the President’s Retreat for Faculty Alliance in Fairbanks on October 18, 2006.
- SAS sponsored and ran the Fall 2006 Faculty-wide Assembly on December 6: “Enhanced Advising for Underprepared Students.” The focus was to communicate current advising practices at UAA. Approximately 40 staff, faculty, and administrators attended.
- Throughout the year, SAS worked with Linda Morgan (Director, Testing & Advising) on both the *Quick Facts* book on faculty advising as well as on the Faculty Advising Module Series (with help from CAFÉ). All four series sessions were offered during the Spring Semester, with SAS committee members present to provide feedback.
- During the Spring Semester, SAS responded in detail to another Dave Veazey (with Shirish Patil) report prepared in December to President Hamilton about “University of Alaska Student Success.”
- SAS discussed, made recommendations, and approved a “Book of the Year Proposal” brought forward from The Office of Community Partnerships. We requested that a member of SAS continue to be included on committees involved with this project.
- SAS members attended the Vince Tinto UAA Day-long Visit on March 26. Items from his visit and handouts were highlighted and discussed at the following SAS meeting.
- SAS concluded their work with the approval of a motion and recommendations regarding advising to be first discussed with the Provost and VC Lazzell and then sent to Faculty Senate for a vote.

Item 4

Committee Membership, Chair Election, and Initial Goals for AY07-08

At the meeting on April 20, no current member of SAS elected to be Chair of the committee for next year. The committee must be either chaired or co-chaired by an FS member. After the meeting, Tom Skore altruistically volunteered to co-chair the committee with a willing member of Faculty Senate.

Returning SAS committee members:

- Sarah Kirk (FS)
- Trish Jenkins (FS)
- Dave Fitzgerald (FS)
- Catherine d'Albertis (FS)
- Tom Skore
- Trish Grega
- Kamal Narang
- Joan O'Leary
- Connie Fuess
- Linda Morgan

New members:

- Gail Johnston (FS)
- Michael Buckland
- Alberta Harder

AY07-08 Meetings

SAS meetings commence on the last Friday of each month from 2:30-4:00:

- August 31 (organizational meeting and election of chair)
- September 28
- October 26
- November 30
- January 28
- February 29
- March 28 (unless this is Spring Break week)
- April 25

Goal for SAS for AY2007-2008

SAS agreed that one of the items that UAA needed to tackle soon is a focus on student readiness. Therefore, we have determined that the priority task of the Student Academic Success Committee for AY2007-2008 is to conduct a study to determine the basic skill levels in reading, writing, and computation necessary for students to be successful in 100-level GER courses. This will be done in consultation with the Student Success Taskforce and the Office of Institutional Research.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.