

Student Academic Success Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2006

Persons in attendance:

Sarah Kirk, Connie Fuess, Trish Jenkins, Joan O’Leary, Debbie Narang, Kathleen Voge, Kamal Narang, Trish Grega, Gail Johnston, and Tom Skore

Item 1

Attrition at UAA – Update on Progress

Vara Allen-Jones could not attend today to discuss the First-Time Student Registration for Course Sections project and the status of UAA Pathways. The committee agreed that next year’s committee should have this as one of their first “to-do” items.

After the committee’s investigation into the status of each of the Attrition Committee’s recommendation, we request that Gary Rice and the OPRA staff complete another three-year attrition data study for comparison. This new request should include data on any new testing tools in use by UAA as well. The committee anticipates that this will be, at a minimum, an every two-to three-year request in order to identify any attrition trends, for better or worse, that need either attention or recognition.

The committee discussed the need to do something for Bobbi Weber who is leaving UAA. Sarah will find out if anything is being planned.

Item 2

Faculty Advising Certificate

The sub-committee updated everyone on the Faculty Advising Certificate program idea that was formed by SAS this year. The program will require endorsements from the Deans...so the program will be launched next academic year (06-07). The program will be called the **Café/SAS Series on Faculty Academic Advising**. The Faculty Advising Guidelines Handbook needs to be reviewed. There will be three sessions...Series 1, 2, 3. Linda Morgan will work on the handbook. Linda will obtain feedback from the Student Academic Success coordinators around UAA on what topic areas faculty need more information / training on. Planning for the program should be complete by end of July.

After a discussion regarding the problems some faculty are reporting regarding the use of UAOnline’s Unofficial Degree Evaluation option under the Faculty Services area, the SAS committee recommends that this option / link be removed from use as information housed there is inaccurate and not being kept up-to-date. Even though many people are aware of its problems, the committee feels that it should not be available for use at all if it is creating problems for some faculty and students.

Item 3

Report from Faculty Senate on Recommendations to Vice-Chancellor Lazzell Regarding Continuing Funding for SI Grant/Project at UAA

Sarah reported on the Faculty Senate discussion and resulting action regarding Faculty Senate support for continuing funding the SI Program at UAA.

Item 4

Faculty Senate Year-End Committee Report

The committee discussed the goals set at the beginning of the year and our accomplishments.

GOAL	ACCOMPLISHMENTS / COMMENTS
Goal 1 – Become familiar with current UAA student resources.	All SAS committee members attended the CAFÉ session during the Fall semester or prior year on Academic Advising Resources.
Goal 2 – Invite guest speakers from various areas of UAA to inform us on academic success initiatives.	Linda Lazzell and Vara Allen-Jones addressed these items at an SAS meeting. The committee supported the continuation of the SI program with a Faculty Senate motion.
Goal 3 – Stay abreast of placement tools and their use at UAA.	Joan O’Leary initiated use of E-write for writing placement at the Mat-Su campus last summer. 300+ students have taken the test to evaluate progress or preparedness. This will help determine whether the course CCG is being taught to. Results are qualitative. E-Write is a placement test and uses cut scores. ACCUPLACER was validated this Fall Semester and one change was recommended and accepted: ENGL 111 and will pilot for one year a combined reading and writing ACCUPLACER scores for placement instead of using individual cut scores in each area.
Goal 5 – Admission Pathways	Rick Weems attended an SAS meeting and discussed Admission Pathways. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our committee was unable to completely investigate the current status of Admission Pathways and will address this in September 2006.
Goal 6 – Attrition Update	Reviewed and updated progress on original committee’s recommendations. Request that Gary Rice/OPRA complete another study this summer so next year’s committee can analyze trends. Action Required – What process exists for monitoring what happens to reports and their recommendations, such as the Attrition Report, once ratified or approved by the Faculty Senate? We need to ensure that recommendations are followed up / monitored, even when the original committee is disbanded.

Final Items

Gail Johnston will be the only committee member not returning for the 06-07 year. **The committee decided that Sarah Kirk will convene the first meeting on Friday, August 25, 2006 at 2:30 p.m.** A location will be determined prior to the meeting (CAFÉ was suggested as the new SAS meeting home.). The SAS committee will continue to meet on the fourth Friday of each month. When returning, the committee stated that it would be nice to have members from College of Education and College of Health and Social Welfare.

One of our first discussions for Fall 2006 will be to meet with Vara Allen-Jones regarding the First-Time Student Registration for Course Sections project.