

Student Academic Success Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 31, 2006

Persons in attendance:

Sarah Kirk, Trish Jenkins, Joan O’Leary, Debbie Narang, Kathleen Voge, Kamal Narang, Trish Gregga, and Tom Skore

Guest Speakers:

Gary Rice, Director of UAA Institutional Research - OPRA

Item 1

Attrition at UAA – Update on Progress

Action Required - Need to know what process exists or if a process exists for monitoring what happens to reports and their recommendations, like the Attrition report, once ratified or approved by the Faculty Senate. Need to ensure that recommendations followed up on / monitored, even when the original committee is disbanded.

Item 2

Guest Speaker - Gary Rice

- Gary has looked at the correlation of Accuplacer results and course success rates by students. He has found NO statistical correlation between Accuplacer results and final course grades. What is Accuplacer’s purpose? Accuplacer is not a predictor of course success by itself. Too many other variables enter in and contribute to successful course completion by students.
- Attrition itself...is still a success measurement...measuring attrition is and needs to remain an on-going activity. Attrition of a statewide performance measure.
- The SAS committee has asked if attrition has been reduced at UAA? If so, what different variables can be attributed to the change? The SAS committee needs a yearly set of measures to compare against the original attrition statistics that were run.
- Requested that Gary run Fall 2005 and Fall 2004 attrition data to analyze for trends
- Gary indicated that his site: <http://opra.uaa.alaska.edu/limited%20access.htm>, has much data and statistics along with written analysis of findings.
- Two new topic papers are available. Persistence (aka retention...students actively pursuing a degree) rates and graduation rates for eight years by individual programs. The SAS committee members need to go out and review these papers prior to the next meeting.
- Gary requested that he and his office be used as a sounding board in order to identify and develop tangible measurements. He has very limited time and staff resources and this creates the need to work more efficiently. His goal is to attempt to satisfy two or more requests with the same set of data and statistics.
- The SAS committee members indicated that statistics are needed on whether Orientation is currently working. The results could support whether orientation for students become mandatory. Discussion continued on whether we have a need for tracking admission pathways.

- Need Pathways Phase II information.
- Vara Allen-Jones will update the committee Pathways progress at our April meeting.
- Gary also indicated that a “ten thousand foot few” of data is currently being worked for the past five years at UAA. This should provide a wide variety of possible measurements that SAS can use.
- Sarah stated all SAS committee members need to go to Gary’s website and read the original Attrition information posted there that initiated the formation of the original Attrition Committee. Homework assignment...read before next meeting!

Item 3

Supplemental Instruction Report

Action Required - Debbie Narang will check with Tara K. about statistics provided on the SI report we received. Some of the statistics create more questions.

Item 4

??Packet from Vara...regarding note taking in system. This should be included in Advisor training.

The committee would like to extend its thanks to Gary Rice for attending our meeting and offering to help us obtain the statistics we need to monitor student academic success at UAA.

Upcoming Meetings:

Our next meeting will be on April 21 at 2:30 p.m.