

**Student Academic Success Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2006**

**Persons in attendance:** Gail Johnston, Trish Jenkins, Sarah Kirk, Debbie Narang, Connie Fuess, Joan O’Leary, Kathleen Voge, Trish Gregg, and Tom Skore

**Guests:** Lauren Bruce and Lynn Koshiyama

**Item 1:** Report from Faculty Senate and E-Board Meetings (Sarah Kirk)

- Some E-Board members were disappointed to hear that the 60 credit GER monitoring is not being pursued / enforced by Enrollment Services. There is a need to discuss this again and further with Rick Weems to determine what modifications are needed to the system / process to make this feasible. Sarah Kirk will contact Rick Weems prior to our next meeting.
- When the topic of admission policies for baccalaureate degree programs was discussed, the E-Board stated that this should be brought before UAB for any further discussions.
- The topic of priority dates for registration for those who have already applied for graduation should to discussed with Linda Lazzell.
- SAS will continue to discuss the topic of mandatory advising for entering students.

Discussion within SAS committee regarding mandatory advising included the following: We need to make sure we “define” what we are talking about with relation to advising. There are many different “types” of advising currently being offered. How is “tiered” admission related? Is this related to the new Admissions Pathways program? We will gather more facts and numbers. We need to understand how many students we are actually looking at and who they are. We also need to consider the other groups currently receiving mandatory advising, i.e. LAP (Lack of Academic Progress) students, UA Scholars, UAA Athletes, etc.

**Item 2:** Discussion of Attrition Committee Report(s) (April 2, 2004 / revised November 5, 2004)

- We discussed each recommendation and will send the 11/04 report to next month’s meeting guests in advance.

Below is a summary of the committee’s and guest’s collective knowledge regarding the status of the Prioritized Recommendations from the Attrition Committee dated November 5, 2004.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Status / Responsibility</b>
Enhance course placement – Item 1a	Require placement test scores for students prior to registration	No action to date
Enhance course placement – Item 1b	Validate Accuplacer test scored.	Faculty completed this. There is a need to validate results with OPRA. Question: Has there been any attrition reduction that can be correlated to this?

Enhance academic support – Item 2a	Map existing academic support programs.	Unsure if progress made. Check with Vera Allen-Jones.
Enhance academic support – Item 2b	Coordinate new and existing academic support resources.	Unsure if progress made. Check with Vera Allen-Jones.
Enhance academic support – Item 2c	Create a Supplemental Instruction Program where attrition levels are high.	Completed for three courses.
Enhance academic support – Item 2d	Create a Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum program.	Writing piece in progress by interested faculty. April 2006 planning underway. (??)
Enhance academic support – Item 2e	Create on-going mini-grant pool for experimental support programs.	Unsure if progress made. Some money is available, though, not certain if this is included in those larger pools.
Reinforce effective educational practices – Item 3a	Provide additional faculty development opportunities.	Done. Thanks to CAFÉ.
Reinforce effective educational practices – Item 3b	Continue CAFÉ's New Faculty Seminar Series	Done. Series is continuing.
Reinforce effective educational practices – Item 3c	Implement week-long, paid, new faculty, pre-contract training.	No pre-contract training...though updated / enhanced training occurring. (??)
Reinforce effective educational practices – Item 3d	Design and implement a week (or ten days)-long training to assist faculty with integration of technology.	Done. Technology Fellows Program held in Spring 2005.

Increase access to orientation – Item 4a	Increase access to orientation.	Done. Lora Volden reported orientation activities to SAS Committee in Fall 2005.
Increase general and academic advising – Item 5a	Provide additional trained advisors for first-time freshmen.	There are more trained advisors...though not enough.
Increase general and academic advising – Item 5b	Link placement testing to timely advising.	Unsure how much progress made. Need to clarify.
Increase general and academic advising – Item 5c	Offer faculty training in academic advising.	Done through CAFÉ sessions. More is needed.

Increase general and academic advising – Item 5d	Hire trained faculty to provide summer academic advising.	No action.
Increase general and academic advising – Item 5e	Develop additional peer mentoring and advising programs (student to student).	Unknown.
Commit university resources – Item 6a	Provide staff, training, and financial support to increase access to orientation, placement testing, and advising.	Unknown.
Commit university resources – Item 6b	Target groups for mandatory orientation, advising, and placement upon admission.	Unknown.
Commit university resources – Item 6c	Create tracking systems to identify ongoing needs and to target assistance to high-risk groups.	Unknown.
Commit university resources – Item 6d	Evaluate and sustain ongoing efforts to lower course attrition and improve student retention and success.	In progress. Were SI classes successful?
Commit university resources – Item 6e	Continue support for faculty development in best practices pedagogy.	Done. Though CAFÉ funding, like all funding, is at risk. This is the first year where CAFÉ experienced underfunding.

**Item 3:** Proposal by SAS to CAFÉ for Faculty Certificate in Advising

A lively discussion ensued...and ended with a recommendation for a sub-committee. Sub-committee volunteers were Sarah Kirk, Debbie Narang, and Connie Fuess.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Friday, February 24 – Anticipated guests: J. Gehler, L. Lazell, and V. Allen-Jones  
Friday, March 31  
Friday, April 28