

**Southwestern Community College
Student Success Committee Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2015 (3:00 pm)
Oaks 102**

Committee Members (Bold=In attendance): **Martin Aucoin, Scott Baker,** Mary Bradley, Thom Brooks, **William Brothers, Cheryl Contino-Conner, Johnathan Dean,** Debra Eavenson, **Mark Ellison (chair),** Bethany Emory, Mitch Fischer, **Melody Lawrence, Erin McCully, Elaine Merritt,** Danell Moses, Belinda Petricek, Margaret Petty, **Barb Putman,** Amy Russ, **Jay Sain, Debbie Smith,** Jeanette White

Discussion Topics

1. Purpose, Mission and Vision

The purpose, mission and vision of the student success committee was reviewed.

Purpose: This cross-functional committee focuses on planning and reviewing strategies for improving the quality of students' experiences from consideration to graduation. The group reviews student retention and persistence statistics, enrollment indicators of attrition, and student engagement survey results, and develops strategies for improvement where needed.

Mission: To create engaging, momentum building support systems which foster a culture of student success through credential completion.

Vision: To be a support system where every student is connected, empowered and successful!

2. QEP Update

William Brothers discussed the progress of SCC's QEP which focuses on developing work ready professionals. Subcommittees are currently working to define goals and objectives and will report back at the next scheduled meeting on October 28.

3. Financial Aid Changes

Melody Lawrence highlighted the recent changes in financial aid policy related to use of prior-prior year income. Beginning in October 2016 (for aid applications for the **2017-18** award year), students can file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) using prior-prior year tax data. Using two-years prior tax information on the FAFSA (as opposed to one-year prior information) will increase the form's accuracy and give families an earlier and more accurate idea of their anticipated financial aid and college costs. Melody indicated that this change will most likely result in an increased number of "professional judgement" cases. An illustration of this new policy was provided by Cheryl Contino Conner to aid visual learners.

4. Advisor Training

Mark Ellison provided an update on the Advising Committee's plan to offer advisor training sessions. An advisor self-assessment is being mailed to advisors by October 26 to determine the most needed topic areas. Training sessions will begin during the fall semester and continue through the spring.

5. Administrative Withdrawal

Cheryl Contino Conner discussed the financial aid impacts of implementing the administrative withdrawal policy.

6. Advising E-forms

Scott Baker sought feedback from the group related to additional advising e-forms that are needed. It was suggested that the withdrawal form be added online. Scott requested he be contacted if a need exists for additional online forms.

During this discussion questions were raised about the accuracy of the EVAL screen in Colleague which transitioned to a conversation related to the First in the World Grant that SCC recently received. The grant will provide funding for new advising software (ADVISO) which will provide the information currently not available on EVAL. Training will be offered in the fall 2016 semester for advisors. ADVISO will interact with Datatel, WebAdvisor and Blackboard. The grant will fund two new advising "success coach" positions over the next four years.

7. RAT Updates

ACA: Barb Putman indicated that an instructor guide will be developed for ACA 122 next summer.

Data: Johnathan Dean recommended that Wanda Knight and he be the only representatives on this team since they generate all data requests.

Default Prevention: Melody Lawrence will be scheduling a meeting of this team later in the semester. She provided a brief description of a company that has been hired to work with students impacting SCC's default rate. She indicated that SCC's current default rate is 27.1% with the next anticipated default rate being 23.9% in February 2016. She reminded the group that 30% is the default rate we must stay under to remain in good standing with the Department of Education.

MENToring: Mark Ellison discussed the recently awarded grant from the North Carolina Community College System to fund a minority male mentoring program at SCC. The grant award of \$17,608 will be used to develop a program targeting primarily American Indian students, but will be available to all minority males.

Orientation: Cheryl Contino Conner stated that the online orientation is being tweaked and will mirror seat based orientation.

SmarterMeasure: Discussion centered around the need to rename this team since SCC no longer utilizes SmarterMeasure.

Test Prep: Mary Bradley stated that test prep sessions just started and four were held earlier in the day.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.