



South Central College
Student Engagement Committee

March 3, 2016 Minutes

Attendees: Elizabeth Prange, Susan Tarnowski, Wendy Sandstrom, Lisa Schickling, Laura Beilke, Anthony Riesberg, Susan Mucha, Judy Zeiger, Candy Laven, Elaine Hardwick, Marilyn Weber

- 1) Volunteer Minute Taker – Marilyn Weber
- 2) Minutes February 17, 2016 reviewed and approved Susan/Laura
- 3) Quarterly Report- Discussion of quarterly report that is due for CTF. Dr. Tarnowski will send the forms for the Chair, Susan Mucha, to complete. Information from minutes of CTF Subcommittees will be used to complete the report. Judy and Dr. Tarnowski discussed that the CTF goals form the Student Success Plan for SCC. SCC appears to be ahead of other campuses in CTF planning, but is behind in data gathering. This will be the focus as the teams continue.
- 4) Free Webinars- Innovative educators has free webinars available to us through March. Information may be useful to subcommittees. <http://www.innovativeeducators.org/login.asp>
 - a) Username: FreeTrial, Password: March2016
- 5) Review of Promising Practices: Reviewed current best practices reports from Noel Levitz and CCSSE and discussed SCC current processes.
 - a) N-L 2015 Student Retention and College Completion Benchmark Report
 - i) Top 10 most effective strategies for 2-year institutions:
 - (1) Academic support- SCC provides academic resources from math, writing and science centers, Library, and computer labs, GPS LifePlan
 - (2) Tutoring - SCC provides tutoring through Academic Support Center and TRiO; online tutoring through Smarthinking
 - (3) Pathways to graduation- SCC provides course sequence for most majors in both print and online modes (it is a challenge to keep the on-line version current when changes are made, but advisors have the correct/current print version)
 - (4) Programs for first year students – SCC provides orientation for new students on-line and in person (STAR), including personal assistance with registration; also provides First Year Experience Course for AA degree majors (optional for other majors)
 - (5) Honors Program – not currently offered
 - (6) Work experience in major – SCC provides internships for some majors, experiential classroom/lab, volunteer work opportunities
 - (7) Programs for 1st generation college students – SCC provides this through the TRiO program for select students
 - (8) 1-1 mandatory professional advising – general advising at SCC is not mandatory but available 1-1 through faculty advisors and professional advisors; it is required under certain conditions, such as AMP for students not meeting SAP, select program majors designated in SCC grants, such as TRiO
 - (9) 1-1 advising by professional staff- SCC offers this to all students through faculty advisors in technical majors and professional advisors for all majors
 - (10) On campus employment as retention effort – there is no SCC research on this to-date from Institution Research; Work study and student worker jobs are available to students

ii) Least effective

(1) Discussed the list of least effective and SCC is currently doing the following: peer mentoring, personal finance/literacy sessions, learning communities (intermittent basis)

b) CCSSE A Matter of Degrees: Practice to Pathways

i) High Impact Practices to Improve Student Outcomes

(1) Orientation- Continuous improvement of STAR and registration based on surveys of students, staff, and faculty

(2) Developmental Ed Fast Track- SCC offers 2 levels of some College Readiness courses as one class during a semester; an area to consider for improvement

(3) First Year Experience – SCC offers a 1 credit course mandatory for a select major, optional to others; first year activities are offered in the form of GPS LifePlan sessions and Student Success Day

(4) Student Success Course- SCC does not offer this course; it is a topic included in the FYE class

(5) Learning Community – SCC does not offer learning communities by at-risk factor for students with low assessment scores, literacy scores, or other factors

(6) Academic goal setting and planning – SCC does not currently offer this broadly and is researching this best practice, such as individual student plans, academic coaches, etc.

(7) Experience learning beyond the classroom – SCC offers practicum, internships, service projects, volunteer work, leadership training, clubs, and multiple activities through Student Life

(8) Tutoring- ASC, TRiO, and Smarthinking

(9) Supplemental Instruction – SCC currently does this on a limited basis with English 80 and 90. Exploring additional courses for fall semester identified from 2016 Tutoring AQIP project. ASC staff member will complete SI training May 2016 and plan fall expansion during summer 2016-17.

(10) Assessment and placement – Currently SCC uses MNSCU cut scores for College Readiness course placement; This area is currently a college and system discussion point for ELL literacy testing and Accuplacer scores. SCC administration is leading the college through topics such as an SCC plan for student success, researching data per practice, and student satisfaction per programming.

(11) Registration before classes begin- SCC has STAR orientation and Registration, also has faculty and professional advisors who proactively reach out to current students to register for the next semester

(12) Class Attendance- no current SCC attendance policy for students

(13) Alert and intervention- Optional Early Alert for faculty to report academic progress; advisors will follow up with students reported by faculty

(14) Group Learning Experiences – SCC offers some within technical courses

6) Subcommittee Updates

a) Strengthen Advising/Metric of Satisfaction of Advising Technology Tools/- Anthony reported discussion of advising tools and a gap analysis for both groups

b) Financial Literacy for Students and Families- Lisa and Candy reported on the following: Grad Ready materials were put into folders for Health Care Fair; table tents distributed; researched MSUM approach and found financial literacy information located in their student union such as grad ready and financial aid information located together.

c) SCC policies – Susan reported on her discussion with Nicole Hamilton that they are looking at what the MNSCU policies look like on the SCC policy site and found that SCC has had a slow response to adding/amending policy changes from MNSCU. Dr. Tarnowski added that the policy group should spend time looking at possible barriers to students resulting from SCC policies.

d) Student Focus Groups- Elaine took us through the data for the focus group questions on both campuses. GPS sessions and resources are not well known by students so the group discussed the need for marketing it, embedding it into classes such as FYE and CR. Susan reported that the mobile version of GPS LifePlan is available summer 2016 which will make it more user friendly for students. Class sessions were targeted by students as a need to have more sections/variety of times. On-line courses were discussed by the group with more services to on-line students being the focus. Smarter Measurer was explained as one way students can assess themselves to see if on-line is a good choice for them. SCC surveys on-line students with the PSOL to obtain information of satisfaction and needed improvements.

7) Budget- Discussion of budget usage, such as professional development training of committee members, materials, items identified by CTF subcommittees. Dr. Tarnowski presented an idea of using funds to pay for staff from Normandale to train us on Student Success and Engagement structure/plan.

8) Action Items –

- Explore opportunities through the free webinars available through Innovative Educators
- Quarterly report to be written and submitted- Susan Mucha and Susan Tarnowski
- Continue sub-committee work in all areas
- Review focus group questions and submit ideas to Elaine and Nicole

9) Quality Improvement

- Processes
 - discussed an opportunity to create a process to assess student success
 - discussed how to stay compliant with CTF
 - discussed a process for supporting on-line students
- Results
 - Discussed results from the student focus groups
 - Reviewed and discussed best practices data
- Improvement of processes
 - Need for on-line information given to students and faculty such as a letter that goes to both of them so faculty and students have the same information for accessing an online class, and trouble-shooting on-line issues

Next meeting: Thursday, March 17, 9 – 11 a.m., NM E-132, FBO C36