

SST Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes: March 14, 2008
10:30-12:00 -- 111 Jessup Hall

Present: M. David, H. Dettmer, D. Grady, B. Ingram, W. Nelson, V. Stange, E. Whitt; Absent: B. Anderson, T. Rocklin, D. Thomas, C. Washington-Hoagland

1. Discussion: Updates

- The second (and last) SST meeting of the semester has been scheduled for 2:30-4:00, Friday, May 2, 2008
 - Topic:
 - Having Action Committee chairs report on the results, processes, and recommendations of their work is a good idea, a useful way to 'close the loop' on these initiatives.
 - Also: a panel of students – first-year students, seniors (both? Either?) reflecting on their experiences (1) this year and/or (2) as a UI student for the past 4 etc. years.
 - In general: would it be useful to videotape the SST meetings/presentations?
- SST Website: Design is complete; 'up' as soon as content is produced/added
 - Note: a new 'master' calendar system will be in operation sometime soon; what implications for the SST website?
- "Instruction in Large Classes" Initiatives (e.g., TA training, other possible initiatives evolving from the Summit on Large Classes (2/1/08): Should these be implemented under the umbrella of the SST?
 - Seems consistent with the way we've viewed/organized SST initiatives so far: 'action-oriented' ad hoc groups focused on completing specific tasks, rather than ongoing 'standing committees.'
 - But would this interfere with, or appear to dictate to, the Center for Teaching? What does Jean Florman think? We should defer to her/Norb's wishes on this.

3. SST Member Survey: Discuss Results (email attachment)

- (Note: I (Liz) was out of the room for much of this discussion, so these notes are sparser than the discussion)
- One element that struck people was the need for greater faculty involvement in the SST. Increasing faculty engagement with undergraduate student success and student success initiatives was also a clear theme in the retreat.
 - H. Dettmer: "Faculty are stretched to the ultimate limit" and so attempts to get them to add 'non-classroom activities' are not likely to be successful.
 - B. Ingram: Faculty aren't likely to want to attend meetings where they 'are talked at' (such as the SST meetings). Although we've had difficulty getting faculty to participate

in the committees for which we need faculty involvement (in all cases, those whom we've contacted have said they can't add more commitments to already-full agendas).

- Perhaps we could identify ways to capture what faculty are doing anyway – what student success initiatives are faculty engaged in in the course of their regular activities? How might this become part of the SST initiatives or be a way to get more faculty involved?
- Also important: Word of mouth – getting faculty who already are involved to bring others along.
- Suggest a “campaign” to encourage faculty to think about students as not only people who attend their classes.
 - “A Day in the Life of a Student”
 - “Anatomy of a Successful Student”
 - Posters – what else?
- Involve faculty who have received awards for teaching (example: KU ‘exchange program’ with Kemper award recipients)
- One Faculty-Staff Community, One Book: read a book about students (e.g., My Freshman Year, Binge) and discuss at the summer retreat.
- “Pick One” for faculty and staff?

4. SST Action Committees

- Update on Activities: (follow up from 3/13/08 meeting of committee chairs) – the committees are making progress and a few (e.g., Barriers, Importance of Student Success, Peer Educators) are almost done.
- Discussion: Task Force on First-Year Experiences
 - Draft Charge (email attachment): The consensus of the group is this is a task force that “makes sense” and is a “good idea to move forward”; it has the blessing/approval of the Executive Committee to proceed, with the following suggestions:
 - Add a Phase 3: consider transfer students.
 - Elements for study/consideration to add to the charge:
 - ❖ Ethics and ethical behavior
 - ❖ Respect
 - ❖ Healthy living
 - ❖ Safety
 - ❖ Traditions
 - ❖ Expectations (the message)
 - Tom Rocklin is in the process of naming a chair for the task force.
 - Suggestions for members (or, perhaps, it's sufficient to consult with these entities during the task force's work):
 - Jodi Linley (IBA and Iowa Edge)
 - OISS
 - Athletics
 - Student Disability Services
 - UCS
 - Band

- Discussion: Marketing/Communication Committee
 - Draft Charge (email attachment): The consensus of the group was to proceed.
 - Membership: Be sure to include someone from Office of University Relations
- 5. Discussion: Event at the President's Residence (Welcome Week 2008 – Sunday before classes begin, c. 4PM-7PM; all first-year students will receive invitations, though others will be welcome)
 - Important: Find a focus – a few key points on which to build the event.
 - Possibilities for 'advancing the work of the SST' – communicating welcome, communicating expectations; OCOB, new traditions, Pick One.
 - T-shirts with 'the message'?
- 6. Next Executive Committee Meeting: May 19, 2008
Next SST Meeting: May 2, 2008 2:30-4 (location TBA)