

SST Executive Committee Meeting
Agenda: June 19, 2009
10:30-11:30 am – B5 Jessup Hall

Committee members present: Emil Rinderspacher, Beth Ingram, Sarah Hansen, Marcella David, Nancy Humbles, Bill Nelson, David Grady

1. **Overview of Agenda**
2. **SST Survey Results and Discussion**

Key points:

SST serves a couple of primary functions for members:

A chance to network/psychosocial support/contributing to the work
Aspirational/Inspirational – being a part of something that is seen as valuable and important by administration; contributing to the betterment of UI

Most useful aspects of large group meetings:

Group discussions
Formal presentations
Networking

Member suggestions for next year (see handout)

Committee Discussion:

With regard to the **SST Large Group** meetings, Bill suggested having a standardized framework that guides the meetings. For instance, the first meeting of the semester is always the Retreat, while another is hearing from a preeminent expert in the field, etc. It was suggested that we set the dates far ahead of time and in such a way that members come to know the general schedule (e.g., the first of the month or the second Wednesday of the month). Some time at the fall retreat could be devoted to asking SST members to help flesh out their priorities for what is included in the framework (e.g., speaker/topic suggestions, etc.). Sarah will follow up.

The group discussed the key initiatives of SST and their current status.

- ◆ **Pick One** is entering Year 2. A Steering Committee, chaired by Sarah, will help guide and support Office of Student Life staff (Tara Edberg and Kristi Finger) who will be the primary coordinators of the project. A charge to the Steering Committee is to think about outcomes, an assessment plan, and to develop a 5-year plan for Pick One,.
- ◆ **Traditions** Committee: Major recommendations have been implemented. SST/Office of the Provost, shared cost for freshman t-shirts to be distributed through Orientation. A Convocation is planned for 8/23 at 4 pm on the west lawn of the Pentacrest. The 47 Things poster has been developed and will be given to first year students at Convocation. Sarah will work with IMU Marketing and Design regarding additional uses for the 47 Things. Additional recommendations of the Traditions committee include making a more robust Traditions page (we will approach this for 2009-10 using Convocation, Pick One, etc. as additional content); an official opening of classes, and infusing the Alma Mater and Fight Song into various aspects of University life.
- ◆ **One Community, One Book:** We did not contribute as much support for the coming year, because there was not a significant curricular tie in (e.g., Rhetoric classes). Group discussed other options. Marcella suggested that a “One Book” project could provide the vehicle for expanding first year seminars, giving relevance for the book to the curriculum, and allowing for additional seminars using the book as a central discussion point.

- ◆ **The IOWA Challenge:** Emil updated the group. We now have an IOWA Challenge website: <http://thechallenge.uiowa.edu/> as well as useage guidelines, strategies for infusing it into our work. We will continue to expand the site.
- ◆ **Student Academic Engagement Committee:** This group has a number of recommendations and they will be incorporated into the IOWA Challenge website.
- ◆ **Assessment/IR committee:** Elizabeth Whitt is chairing this group and they are working on a draft report.
- ◆ **First Year Experience Task Force:** Beth noted that she had submitted an ARRA proposal to create an office. Absent that we will need to consider homes for things like Convocation.

With regard to all of the above, Marcella noted that we need to commit to revisit the efforts regularly (e.g., every three years) to assess and check on how they are doing, needed changes, etc.

3. **Fall Retreat Update and Discussion**

Committee Discussion:

The group discussed ideas for how to structure the Retreat given that we don't have the capacity for another group of committees on an annual basis. This is because we are now working more toward institutionalizing and assessing our efforts, rather than mobilizing to get started.

Nancy suggested having updates on the above projects so that SST members do know current status. Bill stated that we could use some time to hammer out ideas about the thematic organization of our large group meetings.

Marcella suggested focusing on something beyond the first year. Most of our initiatives up to this point have been directed there. Asking SST members to consider initiatives/efforts related to sophomores, transfers, juniors/seniors would be beneficial. Beth suggested part of this discussion could be what the educationally purposeful experiences should look like post-Pick One (the experiences we want students to have "later, in their major".)

4. **Listserv**

Sarah will change the listserv to remove the "Reply to All" option (you're all welcome☺!)

5. **Webinar**

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, September 29th, 12-1:30**. Location to be announced. We will be participating in a webinar titled:

Learn how to form effective partnerships with faculty and meaningfully involve them in the first year student experience.

Thank you to all for your commitment to SST and for all your support during my first year as SST Coordinator!

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Hansen
SST Coordinator