Core Implementation Group (CIG)

The CIG’s second meeting of the semester was dedicated to a visit from a team from the Chancellor’s Office, including Ephraim Smith, Jeff Gold, and Robyn Pennington. The members of CIG had a far ranging discussion with the CO representatives regarding retention initiatives to support SSU’s graduation goals.

SSU’s proposal to the Chancellor’s Office for funding for the AAC&U Institute’s “High Impact Practices and Student Success” was approved for full funding. If accepted by AAC&U, the team will focus on improvement of first year transition courses.

CIG is cognizant of the budget implications for the 2011-2012 academic year and is focusing its efforts on insuring that retention activities continue in a more strategic manner to insure the retention of high-risk student populations.

Academics:

First Year Programs: The First Year Transition Work Group has proposed a new model that will increase the total number of freshmen in transition courses from approximately 1,000 in Fall 2010 to 1,170 in Fall 2011. This will be accomplished with the same budgetary resources but through improved configurations of first-year offerings. A pilot one-unit University 102 (Freshman Seminar) will be connected to the 3-unit/semester English 100A/B stretch program. These students are already in a year-long cohort and will receive an additional one unit of student development activities to enhance their first year experience. We plan to conduct the pilot with 12 sections (out of approximately 26 sections) of English 100A.
**GE Reform:** Implementation of the A&H GE Reform is underway. A new advising pattern has been developed and the CMS staff is beginning to build the new pattern into the DPR in preparation for Summer Orientation. Advisor training is being developed.

**Academic Logistics:**

**Block Registration:** SSU has continued with its successful implementation of automated (cms) block registration in Fall 2010 by automatically registering the English 100A stretch program students into their Spring 2011 English 100B course. Over 500 students were pre-registered into these classes. We anticipate continuing with block registration in Fall 2011 and have identified a number of issues that will be resolved in the area of scheduling in order to improve the block registration processing.

**Advising:** SAEM Task Force is completing their review of undergraduate, undeclared advising and will provide recommendation to the campus this spring.

**Wait List:** Full implementation of waitlist for Fall 2011 is underway.

**Student Life:**

During the visit from the team from the Chancellor’s Office it was suggested that SSU might look at ways to strategically provide first year transition experiences to high-risk populations, utilizing data regarding such things as Pell Grant recipients (low income), remediation status in Math and/or English. Other campuses, such as SDSU, now utilize this data to make strategic decisions about offering retention activities specifically to such high risk populations. The FIG, MOSAIC, and EMT Programs are looking at these retention indicators and will be advising and/or placing high risk students in to these courses. Planning has begun on this initiative.
Conferences:

A team of 20-member team (faculty, administrators, and staff from Academic Affairs and SAEM) attended AAC&U’s Annual Meeting and Pre-Conference Workshops in San Francisco, January 26-29, 2011. Each participant has submitted a report on their activities at AAC&U. A final report will be issued that provides highlights of what was learned and how those ideas can be implemented at SSU to improve the retention, graduation and academic quality of our students.