Steering Committee on Track

The Steering Committee has been meeting on a regular basis, providing the membership with news and progress reports from working groups. Members also had the opportunity to hear from featured speakers over the past few months who provided valuable updates and information on various college projects.

SCCC President Shirley Robinson Pippins discussed the Mission Review II process and document and its relationship to the Self-Study project. The President spoke about achievements (including the College Success program, the first Annual Fund Campaign, and the Mechatronics grant) and challenges, including facilities issues, regional economic impact, diversity initiatives, and updates on the Sayville and Riverhead centers.

Associate Vice-President Joanne Braxton gave an update on the Strategic Planning Council and their discussions on enrollment and retention plans. She also discussed the council’s reviews of the college technology plan, the capital master plan and the SUNY Student Opinion Survey.

Randolph Manning, College Associate Dean for Educational Resources, gave his reflections on his participation as a visiting Middle States team member last year at Allegheny College in Maryland. He advised the committee on various aspects of preparing for the self-study, gleaned from his experiences.

Kevin McCoy, interim Associate Dean of Library Resources and Ammerman Campus Head Librarian, gave a presentation on the SCCC Archiving Project. The goals of this ambitious project include making all public college documents easily accessible to the college community in both print and electronic format. This, in turn, will create a historical record of the college and facilitate digitizing documents that the college is required to keep in accordance with its records management plan. As part of his presentation, Kevin showed a clip of an audio/video interview with Dr. Albert Ammerman, SCCC’s first president, as well as some of the initial documents that have been uploaded to the archive Web site. You can view this at: http://dpt/home.sunysuffolk.edu/Library/archive/index.asp.

Doug Kahn, Associate Dean, Enterprise Resource Planning, did a PowerPoint presentation on Project Lighthouse. Also known as Banner, this unified software management system will bring together most college business processes and information (from enrollment management and academic programs to human resources) into one place. It will replace the outdated mainframe screens that are used for academic affairs, student records, finance and human resources.
**Timetable:**

*Where We Are, Where We’re Going*

The Middle States Self-Study project is adhering to the timetable established last year. Added below are dates of the initial visit from team chairperson, Dr. Karen Stout, and the dates of the Middle States team visit in March, 2007.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2005</td>
<td>With input from working groups, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (formerly Institutional Research) administers surveys to faculty, administrators, and students. Working groups update steering committee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2005</td>
<td>Information Forums held on each campus.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2006</td>
<td>Working groups update steering committee on progress of answering charge questions. Staff survey administered.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2006</td>
<td>Survey results completed by Institutional Effectiveness and made available to working groups.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2006</td>
<td>Working groups complete draft of answers to charge questions and submit to Coordinating Council for review.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2006</td>
<td>Working groups refine drafts, with input from Coordinating Council. Information forums held at all campuses.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2006</td>
<td>Working groups submit second draft of reports to Coordinating Council.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June-August 2006</td>
<td>First draft of Self-Study written.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2006</td>
<td>Campus Forums. First draft of Self-Study distributed to college community for input.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2006</td>
<td>Campus Forums. Self-Study draft mailed to Middle States Team Chair. Visit of Team Chair.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov./December 2006</td>
<td>Final Self-Study written and printed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2007</td>
<td>Self-Study mailed to Middle States CHE.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2007</td>
<td>Visit from Middle States team, March 4-7.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2007</td>
<td>Middle States action</td>
<td></td>
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Spotlight on Our Staff

Staff members from various college departments are members of the Self-Study Working Groups.

Susan Marano (working group VIII) has worked in various departments over her 19 years here at SCCC, starting at the Eastern Campus as a college aide and currently working as a principal clerk in the Philosophy and Visual Arts Department at the Ammerman Campus. "One of our group's processes is to read program review reports. This helps me to understand how we assess our programs and student learning, as well as how we provide a superior teaching and learning environment." Her past Middle States experience was in 1997, when she was a hostess at the Middle States dinner presented by the Eastern Campus Hospitality and Dietetic Technology programs.

Cathy Haack (working group V), an administrator I in Central Admissions, has worked at SCCC for 37 years and plans to retire at the end of this year. "Middle States has been interesting and enlightening for me, and I have enjoyed working on this project."

Margie Caceres (working group X) is a principal clerk in Instructional Technology on the Ammerman Campus. She's been with the college for four years. Working on the project, she says, "has enabled me to meet people from various departments who are dedicated to making our school a college of excellence."

Iris Rilling (working group VIII), a senior clerk typist in the Eastern Campus Financial Aid Office, has been with the college for eight years. "I have been in the subgroup which looks at library resources and information literacy. This pertains to the new standards of excellence. I'll enjoy seeing the final outcome of all of the reports."

Janet Erdman (working group IV) is a principal clerk in Student Services on the Eastern Campus. She is on a subgroup working on "assessment and effectiveness as it relates to our institution. It's been an incredible journey for me. I have learned that the effectiveness of what our students learn, and the services we provide, needs to have an assessment plan in place to ensure that we are continually improving education and services to the college community. I look forward to working with the committee in the months ahead."

Rose Bancroft (working group I), an office system analyst II for Financial Aid in Central Administration, offers a unique perspective, coming to the committee with a background as a student and a staff member. She started at SCCC as a work-study student in 1990. After graduating with an A.S. in Computer Information Systems, she worked here as a professional assistant. Continuing her education, she graduated with a B.A. in Business Management from Stony Brook University. She's been in her current position for 11 years. "This is my second experience working on a Middle States committee. It allows us to clearly see why Suffolk is a great stepping stone for students who plan on transferring to a four-year institution and for those students who are retraining for new careers."

Team Chair Appointed to SCCC Self-Study

When the Middle States accreditation team comes to evaluate SCCC in early March 2007, they will be led by Dr. Karen Stout, President of Montgomery County Community College in Pennsylvania, the fifth largest higher educational institution in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. Dr. Stout previously served as Vice-President for Institutional Advancement and Enrollment Services at Camden County College in New Jersey and has nearly 20 years' experience in community college leadership positions. Dr. Stout earned her doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Delaware, a master's degree in business administration from the University of Baltimore and a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Delaware. Her educational background also includes completion of professional development programs in higher education leadership at Harvard University. In 2005, Dr. Stout was named Educator of the Year by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission for her leadership in advancing diversity initiatives at Montgomery County Community College.
Welcome to Dr. Attinasi

Louis Attinasi, Associate Dean for Institutional Effectiveness, became one of the newest members of the Middle States Steering Committee upon his arrival at SCCC this past January. A faculty member and institutional researcher for the past 20 years, he comes to us from Pima Community College in Tucson, where he worked most recently as Executive Assistant to the President and Director of Institutional Research. Previous to that, he held various positions in higher education and institutional planning at Loyola University - Chicago, University of Houston, Northeastern Illinois University - Chicago, and Arizona State University. His education is far ranging, including master degrees in zoology and anthropology, and a Ph.D. in Higher and Adult Education. The timing of his arrival — during the crucial Middle States accreditation project — proved to be a challenge, which he is meeting head on. There was also the challenge, after having lived in the southwest, of adjusting to the East Coast winter. This was mitigated by the fact that he is originally from Rochester. “I’ve adjusted very well, both work wise and within the larger community experience,” he says. In any spare time he’s been able to carve out, he enjoys power walking, watching classic movies and listening to classical music. We all welcome Lou to the college and to the project.

Self-Study Coordinating Council

Dr. Caandice Foley
John Pryputniewicz
Self-Study Co-Chairs

Judith Koodin
Project Administrator

Dr. James Camrief
Vice President
Academic & Student Affairs

Joanne E. Braxton
Associate Vice President
Campus Affairs

Dr. Allen Jacobs, Associate Dean
Curriculum & Assessment

Dr. Susan Fanning
Communications Officer

Susan DeMasi
Self-Study Writer

Dr. Shirley Robinson Pippins
SCCC President

Muriel Lanier,
Middle States Project Secretary
451-4682

In order to keep the college community informed about SCCC’s reaccreditation, this newsletter will be published every semester during the Self-Study process. Please visit our Web site for additional and more in-depth information. We welcome your input and comments.

http://www3.sunysuffolk.edu/MiddleStates/