In attendance: Dr. Bill Eddleman, Chair; Dr. Frank Barrios; Dr. Debbie Below; Dr. Allen Gathman; Mr. Patrick Vining; Ms. Robin Grebing; Dr. Sophia Scott; Mr. David Wilde, Ex Officio: President Dobbins, Provost Rosati, Recorder: Diane O. Sides

Directions for Fall 2011 – Steering Committee will meet biweekly unless otherwise noted.

Brief Updates from the Subcommittees:

Curriculum, Academics, and Academic Program Committee: Dr. Allen Gathman, Chair, reported this committee met last week and will have a draft report in the near future.

Student Demographic Changes: Dr. Frank Barrios, Chair, reported the committee has met and individual committee members have assignments. The committee is on track and will have a draft report by the end of the semester.

Technology Committee: Mr. David Wilde, Chair, reported this committee has not met yet this semester, but will soon meet to review recommendations brought forward from the draft report. In addition, committee members will be working on statistics to support recommendations in the report (see below for details).

Role of Faculty: Dr. Sophia Scott, Chair, reported the committee has not met yet this semester, but has a meeting September 22nd. She reported the committee would be working on both a short-term and a long-term plan, looking at how growth of the online program could affect workloads, promotions, questions such as who teaches online courses, the sharing/collaboration of faculty, compensation, non-resident faculty, quality control, continuing education and professional development of faculty, promotion and tenure criteria, the roles of tenure track and non-tenure track, and other issues involving the role of faculty.

Student Services: Dr. Debbie Below, Chair, reported the committee has not met since the last Steering Committee meeting.

Dr. Eddleman asked for review comments on the Online Report. It was noted that there is a desire to see specific program recommendations for what the University should be offering online. A Q² project for growing online programs is on the list of priorities for the University and that process should produce some specific initiatives for specific online programs. Among those that have potential are the RN to BSN, MBA, MBA in organizational management, the MS in Criminal Justice that is a cooperative program with Missouri Southern University. New potential programs include an MS in community policing which is in demand, but would need more faculty.
It was noted that the Missouri Hospital Association made a presentation at the most recent Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education. They introduced the BSN in Ten, whereby they are suggesting that it be required that all new RNs attain their BSNs in a maximum of ten years or they would not be licensed to practice. If this plan is adopted, it gives more impetus for Southeast to market the online RN to BSN program. However, it was noted that the Nursing Department has several faculty vacancies which will need to be filled ASAP.

Dr. Eddleman asked what action(s) the committee desires to take on the online subcommittee report. It was noted that the plan to expand online courses and programs is intentional to assist with both enrollment growth and maintaining and growing the number of Southeast faculty. Dr. Gathman, Dean Gerald McDougall, the provost and the president will meet to discuss strategies, time tables, and overall planning, plus how to proceed with getting input from the faculty with a possible draft plan in place by November. Dr. Gathman already has a Q2 project in place to look at short-term online programming, including current marketing, faculty, and quality of the programs. In addition, the project will look at how to provide professional development for faculty for online programming. The committee members agreed to accept the report as written, identify this issue as a priority and proceed accordingly, and to sincerely thank the members of the subcommittee for their hard work on this project.

There will be a Q2 focused on the marketing and growth of current online courses and programming and the need to develop a strategic marketing plan; and a Q2 to analyze, research and make a recommendation on the learning management system.

It was agreed that 2020 Subcommittees would come up with plans or strategic initiatives which will then springboard into campus-wide discussions.

Dr. Eddleman asked that the committee members review comments on the draft Technology Report. It was commented that the draft report possibly focused too much on the next several years as opposed to focusing more on 2020. We need to take into consideration the proliferation of technology tools such as where do tablets fit in? Cloud computing? More mobile devices? We need to be more far-reaching with our analyses. The concept of requiring all students to have a laptop was discussed at length and pros and cons were analyzed. We must continue to take into account that the textbook industry will be moving to all e-texts in the future. University technology standards must be as relevant as technology standards in the elementary and high schools if we are to maintain credibility. With several of these issues in mind, it was suggested that the Technology Committee revisit the draft report, include more data and statistics in the recommendations, including the number of students on campus currently who do not own a computer.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held at noon, Monday, Sept. 26, 2011, in the President’s Office Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane O. Sides