

STUDENT SUCCESS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
END OF YEAR REPORT 2014-2015

The Student Success Governance Committee met regularly during the 2014-2015 academic year and continued to develop the Faculty Mentoring and Advising Proposal.

“Advising is an opportunity to teach our students crucial planning skills that will be invaluable beyond the student’s academic career.”(NOVA QEP, p.3) This proposal originated from the NOVA model of faculty advising, which is based on their current “Achieve the Dream” Grant. This model focuses on the benefits of increased student/faculty relationships, mentorship by faculty in the student’s chosen major after their first year, and the potential impact that this guidance and advice will have on student success. Our proposal includes a template for recruiting interested faculty, training faculty volunteers, and a potential timeline for implementation. Desired outcomes include: increased retention and student engagement, increased graduation rates, increased transfer rates, increased job readiness skills, and a more informed student as related to the world of work. This is based on the assumption that there is a direct correlation between education, academic preparation, and career goal development.

The introduction of faculty mentoring is a positive step toward ensuring students have access to all available resources in order to maximize their potential while attending TCC. Analysis of comprehensive data shows that the current proposal brings TCC into alignment not only with other VCCS institutions, but also with leading colleges and universities nationally. Our research supports the premise that the most effective model of student-faculty mentoring relationship at TCC would be a shared model reflecting collaboration between students, student services, and faculty. Variations of such a model are informally in place at our campuses presently; however, realignment of current practices to a common model which emphasizes early and continual engagement with a mentor will improve students’ overall success.

This proposal was shared with the college wide Faculty Senate on Thursday May 7th to gain their feedback and suggestions for further development. It was clear that many had reviewed the document in detail, and their comments and suggestions for further development of this proposal were noted. Their comments and suggestions will be shared with the committee at our next and last meeting of the academic year, to be held on May 20th.

Submitted by:
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