The Student Academic Services Center promotes the access mission of Indiana State University and enhances the academic success of its students by providing a myriad of academic support programs. These include academic advisement programs, tutorial programs, mentoring programs, Supplemental Instruction, Twenty-First Century Scholars programs, and TRIO programs [including Student Support Services and, as of fall 2006, Upward Bound, UB Math and Science, and Educational Talent Search]. The Center also provides academic support for students with disabilities and for student-athletes. Additionally, the Center provides a first year seminar, University 101, Learning in the University Community. All Center services are designed to promote student success, facilitate the transition into academe, and enhance the first year experience of students at ISU.

Year in Review

Achievements

As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University’s accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department’s accomplishments for the 2006-07 year that will contribute to this effort? (Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.)

1. Retention of enrolled students via developmental advisement for 813 students for fall term [AOP, OP]; tutoring for almost all gen ed courses for 2,691 tutoring hours for fall term; increase in SI for high risk courses to cover 99 course sections; mentoring for 379 participating students [AOP and TFCS]; provision of Univ 101 for 614 students. 2. Community outreach and secondary school recruitment via serving 3,031 students in TFCS; improved programming for UB, UBMS, and ETS programs in 6 counties. 3. Resubmission of UB and UBMS grants; first time submission of a VUB grant. 4. Receipt of a Lumina grant for TFCS in college; receipt of a Lumina grant for African American males; Putnam Co Community Foundation grant for TFCS received; Wabash Valley Community Foundation grant for TFCS received. 5. Pilot of the Sycamore Pathway Program in partnership with ITCC. 6. 57% of all student-athletes above a 3.0 cum GPA. 7. Academic services for students with disabilities, including note taking [33 students]; readers for 171 exams, scribes for 50 exams, visual aids for 63 exams, extended time for 394 exams. 8. Held the Major's Fair, the Honors Convocation, developed the student planner for 2006-07.

Enrollment

What steps did you take this year to aid ISU in overcoming enrollment challenges?

Please see items on retention and secondary outreach and increased programmeing with ITCC in Achievements above.
Action Steps

Do you have any further progress you would like to report?

SASC personnel are still engaged in most of these projects except the last one, which has been dropped by ISU and ITCC for the nonce.

Assessment

What are two ways in which you evaluated the quality or effectiveness in your area last year?
What changes did you make based on those assessments?

1. Assessment is based first upon student achievement. All student grade and retention data is analyzed each term to determine the rate of retention and grade achievement of SASC student population and to watch whether specific groups of students will need additional support. 2. Staff are evaluated with SIRs on teaching and by their peers on their overall performance via annual report processes. Changes: The SPP is being revised post program assessment; some changes have been made in teaching assignments, in teacher training programming, and performance reviews have been discussed.

Budget

As you know, ISU is facing significant budget challenges. Finding ways to overcome these while increasing efficiency requires innovation. How are you overcoming your budget challenges this year?

I occasionally beg for money. We submit grants--UM, UBMS, VUB, 2 Lumina and 2 Community Foundation ones this year.

Quality

Please provide 1-2 suggestions to increase the ability of your department or the University to meet the criteria above.

The SASC needs more space [we had 22,568 student sign-ins for services between the end of August 2006 and 22 March 2007]. We also need more staff: specifically, an Asst. Coord. for SI programming and an Asst. Coord. for TFCS.

Feedback

This section is to allow you to share your ideas for enhancing enrollment, dealing with budget and other challenges facing the university community.

We believe that program prioritization is important but that the way certain departments are being combined and certain majors are being eliminated is based more on personalities and politics than on logical, rational, sensible, curriculum based thought. Academic programs are what draw students to Universities; they are also what draw superior faculty. Everything else is mostly window dressing. ISU needs more innovative curricular offerings but also needs to offer the core areas of study that make a school a university and not a vocational school. Finally, our advertising is not very classy, appearing to attempt to appeal to the lowest common demoninator in the public rather than the highest, appealing to the adolescent sense of fun rather than to the intellectual enterprise of adults. I don't think we want to become the educational equivalent of fast food.