

RUSS

Rowan University Self Study Update

Volume 1, Issue 9

Background

The RUSS Team conducted three open forums with the campus community to share the first draft of the self study as well as to solicit feedback. Open forums were held on March 28, March 31, and April 11—and the notes from those forums are available at: www.rowan.edu/president/selfstudy. Co-chairs Pat Mosto and Don Stoll are updating the document with the working group leaders based on the feedback from the open forums.

Steve Poskanzer, president of SUNY-New Paltz, will be Chair of the Middle States Visiting Team. The Middle States Team visit is scheduled from Sunday, March 29 to Wednesday, April 1, 2009.

Spotlight on Standards 8 and 9

Because Standard 8 (Student Admissions and Retention) and Standard 9 (Student Support Services) both deal with students, the RUSS Team saw them as a unit. Material covered by these standards has been researched by one working group. Standard 8 requires the working group to examine the congruency between the types of students we admit and retain and how those students' interests, goals, and abilities fit into the institution's mission. Standard 9 calls for the working group to analyze the institution's student support services and answer the question of how well we support the educational goals of the students we admit.

Profiles of the Standard 8 and 9 working group leaders

Melissa Arnott, director of the Academic Success Center, and Margaret Van Brunt, assistant dean in the College of Business, are leading the charge to analyze Rowan students and the types of services we provide for them.

Melissa, who joined the Rowan community five years ago, directs the Academic Success Center. The Center's services include testing, tutoring, basic skills, veteran's affairs, and disability resources. Her research interests include academic success with students with learning disabilities, ADD and mental health disabilities, and the transition from high school to college. Melissa also teaches as an adjunct in the Psychology Department. She joined the RUSS Team because "I hope to contribute my knowledge in the student affairs area, give insight regarding other areas of expertise." She notes that she chose Standards 8 and 9 "...because I work in Student Affairs and feel that I can contribute in that area. I chose the admissions standard so I can learn more about enrollment management and be part of the solution to this ever-changing issue at Rowan." Melissa admits to having "the most adorable grandson" and enjoys travel, photography, and boating.

Margaret Van Brunt has worked in the Rohrer College of Business for 23 years. She currently serves as the Assistant Dean. She deals mostly with student issues including but not limited to admissions and retention and student support services. She has also served as an adjunct and three-quarter-time temporary

Profiles continued...

faculty member in the Accounting and Finance Department. Margaret's contribution to the RUSS Team is her attention to detail and organizational skills as well as her understanding of student admission and retention and student services. She notes that her leadership of this working group will help her "...obtain a better understanding of the University which will enable me to improve my contributions to the College of Business and to the University." She is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of New Jersey as well as the Director of the Southwest Jersey Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. An avid early morning walker with a neighborhood group, Margaret has two children (ages 23 and 26) who live and work in Washington, DC.

Standards 8 and 9 working group progress report

Members of this working group were chosen for their expertise in admissions and student affairs. The initial questions posed in the self study (see below) were sent out to each working group member. Working group leaders Margaret Van Brunt and Melissa Arnott then interviewed other stakeholders in both Student and Academic Affairs for additional triangulation of the data. The questions the group set out to answer are the following:

- 1) What are the processes by which Rowan University recruits, admits, retains, and graduates its students? Who are our target populations? How effective are these processes? What level of institutional support exists for these processes?
- 2) How are these processes adjusted and customized to fit the needs of various student populations?
- 3) How are these processes communicated to the various stakeholders especially in a climate of change?
- 4) What is the relationship of our mission statement and the composition of the student population?
- 5) What are the ways in which Rowan University assesses the effectiveness of the various parts of these processes, and how are the findings looped into the process so it works more effectively?

Standards 8 and 9 working group

Jay Chaskes (Professor, Sociology),
Constantine Alexakos (Assistant Director, Student Activities)
Jose Aviles (Assistant Director, EOF/MAP)
Kate Boland (Research Assistant, Institutional Research and Planning)
Joanne Damminger (Executive Assistant to the VP for Student Affairs)
Muriel Frierson (Registrar)
Dorie Gilchrist (Director, Graduate School)
Patrick Purcell (Student)
Helen Polak (Psychologist, Psychological Services)
Lizziel Sullivan (Director, Career and Academic Planning Center)
Mark Wagener (Director, Residence Life)
Melissa Arnott and Margaret Van Brunt—Working Group Leaders

RUSS Update Editor/RUSS Team Communications Liaison.....Pat Alexy Stoll