Deans’ Cabinet Action Items – September 2, 2014

I. Credit Validation (Karen) – A discussion ensued as to whether or not the Credit Validation piece in the Personnel Handbook should be removed since the criteria has been set by the rank matrices. The Human Resources Office conducts background checks to verify applicants. The role of Continuing Education Units (CEU) was discussed. The discussion will continue at a future meeting. Mike: Create a draft of what he feels would be appropriate in this section for the Personnel Handbook.

II. Revisions to the Master Articulation Agreement (Erin) - Erin provided a general update on the status (numbers) of articulation agreements as of now, both current (signed within the last 5 years) and in progress. Degree requirements were reviewed and discussed. Erin: Make necessary revisions per the discussion.

III. National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Results (Sarah) – Sarah discussed the survey and found that SUNY Canton students do not work with their peers as opposed to other colleges. One roadblock could be that our student body is made up of city, local, and commuter students and these students tend to stay in cliques. Another hindrance could be the fact that quite often there is no bell curve; students are generally very strong or very weak. Faculty need to be actively encouraging their students to work together, and they need to be paying attention to these survey findings. What can be done to get students more engaged and working together and how can faculty assist? The following suggestions were made:
   ➢ Change FYEP courses to include more team projects with the students.
   ➢ Have tutors encourage study groups.
   ➢ Discuss this topic at an Academic Assessment Committee meeting and encourage the faculty committee members to talk to their peers about it.
   ➢ Get feedback from the Non-Academic Assessment Committee members who review the SOS.
   ➢ Dr. Szafran suggested writing about it in his weekly Blab.
   ➢ Encourage students to get involved with the Student Senate.
   ➢ Implement more informal learning spaces, such as the new couches in the FOB lobby.
   ➢ Send students emails from the listserv encouraging them to get involved in campus activities. Online students do not feel that working as a team with classmates pertains to them. A suggestion is to have online faculty members initiate online threaded chats and study groups. Molly: Talk to Priscilla and Courtney on ways to get students more involved.

IV. Updating the Reference Guide for Advance Standing (Molly) – This guide is currently outdated and needs to be brought back up to date. We no longer do CLEP testing on campus due to the fact that the vendor that makes CLEP made changes to their program and there are security issues with it. The new software requires that the College disables local firewalls and purchase a new server. We cannot disable our firewalls due to the security risk it poses to the College. We could isolate the software on dedicated machines with severe security restrictions, but this is not possible due to lack of space. Students can register online for CLEP and search for testing centers; JCC and Plattsburgh offer CLEP testing. Molly: Reach out to Career Services and have them come up with a universal draft of what they would like on this guide. Molly will bring their draft to Deans’ Cabinet to review what the baseline will be going forward. The Deans will take the list to the faculty in the respective departments to decide what they feel should come in.

V. Future Priorities (Space) con’t discussion from E.C. – Ideas were discussed regarding campus space. It would be beneficial if some buildings, such as Payson Hall, could have a mix of faculty offices and classrooms in the disciplines. The Nursing/PTA/Engineering/Early Childhood
programs have dedicated spaces, which gives faculty and students a sense of “place.” Some suggestions that were discussed are:

- Possibly convert Faculty Office Building into administrative offices and turn French Hall into classroom space.
- Adding a second floor to the One Hop Shop.
- Having construction students build a Health Services/Counseling building.
- Off campus spaces in Ogdensburg and Massena.
- Could we offer more evening classes, classes later in the day on Fridays, or weekend classes?
- Grow online infrastructure to generate revenue.
- Calculate programs to see what is feasible; this could eliminate housing students who are taking online courses by default because the face to face courses are filled up.

Of course, funding is a challenge. We need to be looking for target opportunities to generate revenue and make academics from new revenue the priority. **Molly:** Ask to have this topic put on the Institutional Technology Committee agenda for discussion at a future meeting.