The purpose of the Student Admission/Retention and Student Support Services Working Group is to assess the effectiveness of the institution's programs which provide support for the comprehensive development of the student through the successful integration of student services which begin at the time of application and continue through graduation.

The Student Admission/Retention and Student Support Services group has been meeting monthly to discuss objectives as well as methodology. As expected, there have been good discussions about the scope of our responsibility, the goals of the group and the requirements of the final document. The group has divided the question set into seven question sets and each sub-group, consisting of two or three members, is also exploring three additional cross cutting questions as part of their charge. The sub-groups have been meeting regularly and are providing updates at the monthly full group meetings. Each month the sub-groups are given the expectations of what should be included in their monthly updates to ensure that progress is being made.

The sub-groups are currently in the discovery phase of their work which includes reviewing materials in the Middle States Self-Study Document Library as well as other web and print sources. Potential interviews have been identified and the group leaders are coordinating the need for interviews within the working group to allow for efficient use of time for all. It is expected that those who require interviews will be ready to do so in early November. Some sub-groups have also discussed the possibility of using surveys to collect data if needed. This will be discussed and coordinated at the group level as well at the next meeting. Finally, once sub-groups are through their research and interviews, it is expected that there will be a need for focus groups to help the working group to hear first hand about student service experiences. This will be taken up at the December meeting.

The chair and vice-chair have discussed the calendar for key events and will present a final version to the team very shortly. The group has identified an editor who has agreed to pull together the sub-group reports into one cohesive document.