

SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Priorities from Southwest Student Experience Conversations by Alison Groene

Conversation #1

- 1) More faculty and student interaction beyond the classroom environment.
- 2) Internal and external marketing of activities (all areas); identify who should be responsible to collect and distribute information.
- 3) More activities Thursday and weekends including a non-alcoholic dance environment.
- 4) Website – calendar w/daily activities; tie with community events.
- 5) Survey students on their opinions on the website, tuition banding, and other large items.
- 6) Creating community on campus using a system that is student friendly to build connections: online chats, face book, online ride; continue to assist students to find their “place and purpose” at SMSU.
- 7) Academic credit outside the classroom – film series; dinner discussions.
- 8) Continued modernization of facilities (i.e., residence halls).

Conversation #2

- 1) ARAMARK needs to provide more diverse food options to reflect our diverse student population. ARAMARK needs to continue to address the flow of students, timing, and cost of food items.
- 2) Student advising days – need more connections between faculty and students. Not a rushed process, but have it be more individualized.
- 3) How to utilize advisor information available via the web coinciding with training for all advisors offered by individual departments with guidebook on the web.
- 4) Create more internships and mentorships opportunities for students. Most students are not required to have such an experience within their discipline, but are interested in applied learning opportunities.
- 5) Continue to determine our identity as an institution. Need to ask: Who are we? Who do we want to be? Are we what we market to our students? How do we assess who we are?
- 6) Have a year book and class ring for each class.