The first task was to develop a mission statement for the Center for Student Excellence (CSE) with input from various campus constituencies. Below is the proposed mission statement developed by the subcommittee.

The mission of the Center for Student Excellence is to serve as a resource for all Southeastern students, faculty, and staff, in order to help students identify and achieve personal, educational, and career goals as well as helping students identify and understand their responsibilities in their educational process.

The next task of the subcommittee was to research best practices and prepare recommendations for advisor assessment, mentor evaluation, and programmatic assessment. Areas that need to be addressed include satisfaction, behaviors, and processes. Satisfaction can be measured on a semester to semester basis, at transition between professional advisor and faculty mentor, at graduation, or as an alumni. Eventually, employer satisfaction may also be beneficial. Behaviors may include a decrease in course withdrawals, increased graduation/retention/progression rates, fewer changes of majors at upper levels, fewer waivers/substitutions, etc. Processes may include number of contacts with advisor/mentor, type of contact, topic of contact, number of referrals to other campus support units, etc.

The subcommittee is still conducting research and waiting on the report of the SACS visiting committee to see what recommendations from the team need to be incorporated into subcommittee’s report.

The final task of the subcommittee was to develop an assessment system to use as an “early warning” system to identify those students who might need some type of intervention. Research from the U.S. Department of Education, Higher Education Research Institute, Noel-Levitz, AIR publications, Southeastern and others is being reviewed to help identify factors that would be important in this system for Southeastern students.