

Transforming AAFCS: New Era of Action Phase 2

Student Unit Self-Assessment

Note: the term “group” is used below to refer to AAFCS units, councils, and assemblies.

1. Purpose

1.1 Summarize the purpose of this group as described in AAFCS Policy and Procedures Manual:

The SU is not currently listed as a specific function in the AAFCS Policy and Procedure. We have been operating under the description of professional sections from the April 2006 version of the AAFCS Policy and Procedures. In summary the SU’s purpose is to promote and disseminate a knowledge base of the profession to members. Primarily, we need to provide programming to support professional development among FCS students nationally. We strive to help members understand FCS and promote programming at local and affiliate levels.

1.2 Describe any common perceptions of this group's purpose that may be different from, or in addition to, the purpose in the AAFCS Policy and Procedures Manual:

Student members are primarily viewed as a precious resource for the Association, because they are the future. As a whole, the SU is striving to meet the needs of FCS students across the country, specifically related to leadership development, professional development, and networking resources,

Students may also be viewed as not being able to support the costs required for having student sections. Professionals may not be aware or accepting of their potential value and contributions to the Association. These perceptions as well as others may not be the same as what is actually occurring or the same perceptions that students have.

1.3 Briefly describe how the group supports the mission of AAFCS:

The SU taps one of the organization’s most precious resources – the future! Our efforts disperse and promote the AAFCS mission to students all over the country, thereby helping ensure future membership and participation. It also helps students stay aware of emerging trends in our field, and exposes students to various aspects of professionalism. The SU continues to serve as the future for the profession and the Association by continuing to empower individuals, connect with families, and inspire others. The SU promotes professional development so that members are empowered to act on continuing and emerging concerns.

Current mission: The mission of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences is to effect the optimal well-being of families and individuals by:

- Empowering members to act on continuing and emerging concerns;
- Focusing the expertise of members for action on critical issues;
- Assuming leadership among organizations with mutual purposes.

(Source: Approved by the AAFCS Senate, June 1995)

Proposed mission: The mission of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences is to provide leadership and support to people whose work is to assist individuals, families and communities in making informed decisions about their health, relationships and use of resources to improve their quality of life.

(Source: Approved by Board of Directors, March 2006, to be forwarded to the 2006 Senate for a vote as part of the AAFCS Transition Phase 1 Recommendations for Action)

1.4 Describe how this group capitalizes on the unique qualities of AAFCS among related organizations to allow stronger relationships with internal and external groups:

The SU provides close connections between students and professions by encouraging student participation and contributions on AAFCS committees and communities of practice. Therefore, news of our activities is described to many members and leaders of AAFCS. The Student lead mentoring program will provide outstanding opportunities for students and professionals to connect, inspire, and achieve in order to build a stronger profession and Association. Additionally, our unit strives to be aware of FCS student organizations all over the country, further expanding updates from our student unit.

Purpose: Evaluate the effectiveness of group’s achievement to date toward its vision for this category (circle number on scale that best represents group’s rating).

Not Effective	Highly Effective
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 <u>(8)</u> <u>(9)</u> 10	

Based on the group’s assessment of achievements in this category, the group plans to (check one or more):

Continue current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

As of January, 2007 many projects are still ongoing. We will continue our current efforts and await culminating results. Projects are placed in line with the mission of AAFCS, purpose of the SU, and perceptions of the SU membership.

Revise current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

Add to current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

We always strive to provide our members with effective programming. We will always look to add to our current practices to improve how the SU is supporting the mission of AAFCS and providing value to our members.

Note: Changes (revisions or additions) should become part of the group's composite Recommendations for Action.

2. Target Audience(s)

2.1 List typical characteristics and needs of group members:

Members of the SU are undergraduate or graduate students (18 years of age and older) who are currently enrolled in a two to four-year college or university from all across the country. Generally they are connected to a local chapter of the Association and the greater State Affiliate Chapter of AAFCS. Age range of student members and the variety of interests/needs/stages of life provide unique challenges.

Members wish to be involved but time constraints may restrict some participation, funds are a factor in membership/participation, members are excited and eager to embark on a future in FCS. Students are seeking connections with professionals in their field of study, to gain professional development and to meet other students in the Association. They may be seeking ideas for their collegiate and state affiliate chapters or internship and employment opportunities. Some needs of SU members include financial support that apply to student membership, cost-efficient opportunities, and means to participate electronically.

2.2 Approximately how many people are actively involved in the group's initiatives now:

The SU functions in various forms in chapters at local, affiliate, and national levels. Participation in activities varies by the individual membership for each local and affiliate chapter. Because of this disparity, we are only addressing involvement at the national level. In planning, we have active participation from six members, the SU officers. We involve members in planning through ad hoc committees when appropriate. All members are informed and are involved in our initiatives like ITK newsletter and resources through online support.

Active participation is increased in initiatives at annual conference, where we have the opportunity to meet face to face. We estimate that between 50-70 members participate in SU sessions while attending annual conference. Even more participate in our national community service project, since multiple individuals participate in the project at the local level before annual conference. We estimate that at least 200 SU members participate in our community service project annually.

2.3 Approximately what percentage of your group is actively involved, compared to the total number of group members:

Unfortunately, we do not have full active participation with our membership. We estimate that the SU has active participation from about 10% of our membership, nationally. Many of

our members are actively involved at the local and affiliate level, estimates of participation would be in the 50% range. We have some problems with estimating participation because some chapters do not require national membership to participate locally. Some of our most active “members” may not actually be national members. This could be causing our estimates to be downwardly biased.

2.4 Approximately what percentage of AAFCS members who reasonably *should* be members of this group, *are* members of this group:

Since we are a unique membership category, most all students that are members of AAFCS are members of the SU. Those that could be members of the SU are generally “nontraditional” students that have been working in the profession and have now returned to school for an additional degree. These members may choose to stay as members on a professional level, because that membership better meets their needs as a nontraditional student and a professional.

2.5 Describe the major characteristics and needs of people whom your group members *serve* and/or *represent*:

As the SU we primarily serve and represent our members, which are students. Our work is geared toward students and that is our target population. For characteristics and needs of our members please refer to question 2.1.

Targeted Audience: Evaluate the effectiveness of group’s achievement to date toward its vision for this category (circle number on scale that best represents group’s rating).

Not Effective Highly Effective

1 2 3 4 5 6 (7) (8) 9 10

Based on the group’s assessment of achievements in this category, the group plans to (check one or more):

Continue current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

Revise current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

We are currently working towards increasing student membership, but we would all like to see higher numbers of membership and involvement. At the end of the year we will examine the numbers, the impact of our membership campaign, and revise if necessary or brainstorm additional ways to increase membership in the upcoming year.

Add to current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

Note: Changes (revisions or additions) should become part of the group's composite Recommendations for Action.

3. Programs and Projects with Related Value

3.1 Describe specific programs and projects that this group conducts. Then identify the value each provides for the group's members, for the Association, and for external audiences.

Program/Project	Value to: <i>Members</i>	<i>AAFCS</i>	<i>External Audiences</i>
1. <i>In-the-Know Newsletter</i>	Allows members to gain access to FACS current events, student activities, and news on national convention.	Allows AAFCS to see SU efforts and activities.	For individuals wishing to learn more about AAFCS, ITK provides a snapshot into the SU activities.
2. <i>Student-Giving Campaign</i>	Allows members to show our appreciation to AAFCS and become more aware of current financial concerns.	May use donated gift as sees fit. May see appreciation on behalf of all students for AAFCS's generosity.	May use this campaign as a model for future giving.
3. <i>National Service Project</i>	Allows students to combine efforts for a good cause, give back to those in need, and promote our efforts at annual conference.	Allows AAFCS to see the SU efforts and contribute to a worthwhile, service project, impacting local Areas hosting annual conference.	Reno-based schools and the Program recipients will benefit from the efforts of AAFCS members.
4. <i>Annual Conference</i>	Provides; networking, news of AAFCS, ideas for student	Allows AAFCS members to see the future of the	Students can share with others what

Programs groups, and keeps the betty organization and potentially they experienced lamp burning! mentor a student in the field. at annual conference.

5. Mentoring Program Provides students with networking opportunities sharing of ideas, professional development, and friendships. Provides connections and support between students and professionals. Will further develop students professionally which will benefit future employers.

Programs and Projects with Related Value: Evaluate the effectiveness of group’s achievement to date toward its vision for this category (circle number on scale that best represents group’s rating).

Not Effective Highly Effective

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Based on the group’s assessment of achievements in this category, the group plans to (check one or more):

Continue current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

Revise current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

Add to current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

We are always looking for new and exciting programs and projects. Based on SU member feedback students are pleased with current activities, but we feel with our membership, the sky’s the limit.

Note: Changes (revisions or additions) should become part of the group's composite Recommendations for Action.

4. Resources

4.1 List major source(s) of funding and average annual revenue for this group:

Currently, we rely financially on the Association and support from the professionals. The AAFCS Board of Directors is our primary source of funding. At this time the SU is not a revenue producing unit in AAFCS.

4.2 List major expense categories and average annual expenses for this group:

Conference Calls (SU Officers): \$150

Annual Conference Programming: \$300

In The Know: \$150

Blast E-mails: \$200

Other programming: \$250

4.3 Summarize resources typically used, including volunteer leadership, AAFCS staff involvement, external resources, etc.:

The SU is fortunate to have involvement and support from many areas. In no particular order: AAFCS Staff, AAFCS Board of Directors, professional members of AAFCS, volunteer members of AAFCS (both professional and students), student members and chapter advisors. We also rely on local and affiliate support for our student members. Affiliate members are supportive in state programming as well as funding. Local chapters are supported by colleges/universities, administrators, faculty, and staff members are critical to our local chapters being successful.

4.4 Describe how resources align with this group's purpose and values:

We need to have resources that will continue to support and strengthen students and professionals within the Association. The SU is a "training ground" for future leaders, thus a major resource is the young leaders who are involved. Resources, both monetary and human resources are used to provide support to student members and student chapters around the country, ultimately developing future leaders.

Resources: Evaluate the effectiveness of group's achievement to date toward its vision for this category (circle number on scale that best represents group's rating).

Not Effective

Highly Effective

1 2 3 4 5 6 (7) 8 9 10

Based on the group's assessment of achievements in this category, the group plans to (check one or more):

Continue current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

The SU strives to effectively use the resources we are lucky to have. We hope continue to all of our resources in ways that will improve the benefits of membership for all students.

Revise current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

Add to current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

The SU needs to try and become more effective in resource management. We need to work to possibly become somewhat revenue producing.

Note: Changes (revisions or additions) should become part of the group's composite Recommendations for Action.

5. Benchmarking

5.1 Summarize the evaluation techniques and measures of progress and impact being used by this group:

We ask for student feedback at the business meeting of the annual conference. Information that we are seeking includes evaluation of student programs nationally, student events at annual conference, and topics from the Association that impacts student membership. We also benchmark our own progress by comparing certain levels of resources, membership numbers, set goals, etc. at the end of the fiscal year and throughout the year. Additionally, each officer is a liaison for a region of the country. In this role officers seek feedback and input from student members and advisors throughout the year.

Benchmarking: Evaluate the effectiveness of group's achievement to date toward its vision for this category (circle number on scale that best represents group's rating).

Not Effective

Highly Effective

1 2 3 4 5 6 (7) 8 9 10

Based on the group's assessment of achievements in this category, the group plans to (check one or more):

Continue current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

X Revise current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

With students all over the country and with varying levels of active participation, at times it is difficult to gain accurate, qualitative responses. Perhaps brainstorming ideas for future benchmarking tactics is feasible.

_____ Add to current practices (Delineate/Summarize)

Note: Changes (revisions or additions) should become part of the group's composite Recommendations for Action.

6. Other:

6.1 Please feel free to provide any other general comments regarding this group's overall functioning and plans:

Overall we feel that this group has worked hard to stay in contact via e-mail and conference calls effectively. SU leaders have similar goals, hopes and aspirations for the Association which encourages the completion of activities throughout the year. Our greatest challenges come from recruiting students to stay active and involved in their local chapters while considering national involvement. Students are continually being challenged by external forces; work and employment, other campus involvement, apathy toward pre-professional involvement, etc. We hope that our programs will overcome some of these barriers and generate more student participation from around the country.

On behalf of all student members, the SU officer team would like to thank the AAFCS headquarters staff, professionals and the Association itself for your continued support and enthusiasm in student efforts. We are thrilled to be such an active aspect of the organization, and proud of all the team-effort accomplishments to date. We wouldn't be able to do it without everyone's support.