Fall 2016 Enrollment Analysis and Discussion
Discussed enrollment, what it means strategically for the college and planning efforts. FTE has slowed, was dropping considerably but has slowed. Pretty evenly split between full-time/part-time, increase in returning students, average age of population fairly steady but trending younger. Data shows pre-recession to current. Need to determine what the new reality is for HC and figure out what to do to make keep numbers level for sustainability. Have gone back to prevailing trends we had before. Some dips in Gen Ed, Trades holding fairly steady, Dual Credit down some (some due to Sentinel going back to Missoula Public Schools, but picking up new courses slowly). HC needs to hold the line and be professional, following proper procedures. Helena High very interested in Machining with students coming to campus. Dean Bingham currently discussing similar partnership with Capital and Boeing. CTE drop in DE maybe computer courses. Drafting was connected to construction, but not for a long time. Most two-year schools are trending down at different rates of decline. Reports are on SharePoint. AAS tend to retain, AS fairly good, AA less retention (students who are going to pick up a few classes and transfer out tend to identify as AA.) Two-year is fairly volatile, but need to market and help the community connect back to us. HC is doing great things and making strides with the economy we are in and circumstances we have no control over. Numbers are fairly good; need to celebrate how well we are doing. We are not being measured by the number of students we have, but the quality we provide.

2016 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) Results
Action: Review/discuss how results will be used (how, who, when?)
CCSSE was administered last fall to determine student engagement which impacts retention and completion. This is the third time in 7 years HC has done the survey. We now have longitudinal data. About 400 students completed the survey, a little low but, with drop in student enrollment, the percentage of students who took it compared to enrollment is going up. Survey skews towards FT students, so they look at ratio of FT to PT and weight to balance the scores. Students are asked to tell why they are here and what their primary and secondary goals are. External commitments major issue for students. Benchmarks are difficult because other campuses are so different. Biggest measurement is how we are doing against ourselves and how we’ve done. Making gains as an institution based on our own performance, gains with PT students shows we are serving PT students well. Very high and low engagement questions may be somewhat helpful,
but can be explained by our students. Backgrounds are rather homogenous. This is a core theme for accreditation, need to meet 4 out of 5, meeting target performance for outcomes.

Need to look at specific questions and see how students are responding to determine what is going on and why it is happening. Have had different groups look at it in the past; inconsistent, though. Maybe need faculty to look at it also. Student Affairs will continue to evaluate and make changes as they have in the past. Made some changes to tutoring, extended hours for that. Would be good to look at increase in student/faculty interaction, may be related to Starfish or faculty advising students earlier. Discussed decrease in student effort, how many hours outside of classroom students are preparing; possibly compare to how much students are working. Work is one of the first things Nursing looks at when students are having difficulty. Info could be used by RRC Committee to make recommendations to various groups within the institution. HC does another version of this survey for entering students that looks at the first 30 days; just did that this fall. Info will be used by RRC Committee as they are revamping and making recommendations to various groups within the institution.