How we arrived at the Comparative Peer List:

- An initial list of 75 institutions was generated using institutions identified as our peers by IPEDS and Education Trust.
- Data was collected on 32 variables for each institution using the EdTrust database as the source.
- A subset of 10 variables were scored by first assigning SCSU a score of 100 for each variable. Potential peer institutions were assigned a score from 0-100 based on their absolute distance from SCSU on that variable. The initial 10 variables scored were:
  - Median SAT/ACT
  - % Pell
  - % UR minority
  - FTE UG
  - Student Related Exp/FTE
  - % PT
  - % 25 & over
  - % Admit
  - % FT Faculty
  - FT UG/FT Faculty score
- The 75 institutions were then ranked by score and presented to the Strategic Planning Committee for discussion.
- The Strategic Planning Committee recommended that any institution more than one Carnegie Classification away from SCSU should be removed from consideration. This was done and resulted in a list of 62 institutions.
- Next, only those variables that are included in Education Trust criteria were included and the institutions were sorted based on score.
- The committee discussed the variables that they considered the most important from the original list of variables and any that were not originally included. They identified number of international students enrolled as a critical variable to SCSU because of our commitment to global education. A data source for this information was identified (Sevis). They also selected FTE undergraduate enrollment, % Pell Grant, and median SAT/ACT score as the most critical variables to consider.
- The data was resorted based on the available EdTrust criteria, plus # of international students
  - Estimated Median SAT / ACT
  - % Pell
  - FTE UG
  - Student Related Exp/FTE
  - % PT
  - % 25 & over
  - # of international students
- The data was resorted a final time based on only those criteria selected by the committee.
  - Estimated Median SAT / ACT
  - % Pell
The top 28-30 institutions on each list were selected for further evaluation. The resulting four lists were compared, and institutions were grouped by the number of appearances in the Top 30 lists. Fifteen institutions appeared on all four lists regardless of criteria used. Four institutions appeared on three lists. Thirteen institutions appeared on two lists. This resulted in narrowing the potential peer list to 32 institutions.

Additional characteristics for these institutions were identified: Institutions appearing on the Institute of International Education Open Door list [SCSU is currently ranked 17] and geographic location.

The SPC reviewed the 32 remaining institutions and the additional information. The institutions appearing in the Top 30 on 3 or 4 of the lists were selected for inclusion in the recommended comparative peer list. The remaining institutions were analyzed and geographic location was considered. The SPC voted to eliminate the California State and CUNY institutions from the remaining institutions because of the differences in population growth and demographics in those two regions compared to St. Cloud State University.

The result was the 27 institutions listed. The SPC voted to approve the draft peer list as their recommendation and forward to President Potter for his consideration.