

Western Carolina University SACS Review
The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
SACS Core Requirement 2.12
Belk 404
2:00 p.m., Monday, June 6, 2005
Meeting Minutes

Attended:

Grace Allen- Accountancy, Finance and Entrepreneurship; Cindy Atterholt- Chemistry and Physics; Troy Barksdale- University Planning; Jennifer Brown- Athletics; Heidi Buchanan- Library; Carol Burton- SACS Director; Kyle Carter- Academic Affairs; Jane Eastman- Anthropology & Sociology; Elizabeth Frazier- Registrar's Office; Patsy Miller- Asheville Programs; Co- Chair Scott Philyaw- History; Co-Chair Brian Railsback- Honors College; Newton Smith- English; Mike Stewart- Facilities Management; Bart Andrus for Julie Walters-Steele- University Center

Absent:

Phil Cauley- Admissions; David Coffee- College of Business; A.J. Grube- Law, Equity and Auditing; Bruce Henderson- Psychology; Bill Haggard- Student Affairs; Tammy Haskett- Orientation; Nell Leatherwood- Center for Regional Development; Wade Livingston- CSP Graduate Student; Gordon Mercer- Graduate School and College of Arts and Science; Irene Mueller- Health Sciences; Bob Orr- Office of the CIO; Kadence Otto- Health and Human Performance; Nory Prochaska- Math and Computer Science; Bill Studenc- Public Relations

Agenda:

I. SACS QEP Responses - Potential QEP Topics Distributed

A total of 95 responses to the topics of:

Do we need to indicate how many selected each topic? Just for recording purposes?

- **Professionalism and citizenship through experiential learning, critical thinking, and engagement with campus and community.**
- **Enhancing student learning by application of knowledge, experiential education, and professional endeavor.**
- **Enhancing learning outcomes through engagement, infrastructure, and regional development at a transformational university.**
- **Challenges of Growth and Engagement: the mind (of the student), body (of the University) and spirit (of the region).**
- **Preparing leaders for a global society through regional engagement.**
- **Building an engaged community that promotes excellence and enhances regional vitality.**

II. Discussion of Potential Topics and Responses

General discussion:

Brian met with the Board of Trustees at their meeting on June 2, and engaged them in a discussion about the QEP and potential topics. They endorsed topic 2 although they liked elements of all topics.

Brian observed that the topics appear to be distributed over # 2, # 3 and # 4 and they are not radically different from one another. He suggested merging topic # 3 and # 4. He suggested the committee choose a base topic to modify and not be concerned with a title yet. Brian said the QEP topic must be focused on student learning. He said "engagement" needs to be defined and other terminology should be clarified. Brian asked if any words need to be deleted and said he favors dropping the word "spirit."

Troy had reservations about topic # 1. He was concerned about how to define "professionalism" and how to measure the results. Troy suggested topic broadening topic # 3 to be less specific. He noted topics # 2, # 3 and # 4 are more student oriented but "student" is missing from topic # 5. For topic # 4, Troy said meeting the "challenges of growth and engagement" was suggestive but not specific.

Newt asked how topic #3 would be assessed. He asked if the committee was defining the topic or the title. Newt said "meeting the challenges of growth and engagement" leaves out the student.

Scott said there must be a balance but the focus must be on student learning. He said the title should focus on student learning and the QEP topic should consider resources to achieve the goal plus have a plan to allocate resources; there needs to be a focus on resources and the measurement of outcomes in the QEP.

III. Break Out Groups to Discuss and Revise Topics

Revised topics:

- **Enhancing student learning by application of knowledge, experiential education, and professional endeavor in a regional and global community.**
- **Enhancing student learning outcomes through engagement.**
- **From students to educated citizens: learning through engagement.**
- **Enhancing student learning, engagement and excellence during a period of transformation.**

IV. Vote on Topics

- Each topic received the same number of votes.
- It was decided that the topic would include "enhancing student learning" and "engagement."
- No one topic was agreed upon, however, a merging of the topics was suggested along with a subtitle:
From students to educated citizens: Enhancing learning through engagement-enhancing student learning by application of knowledge, experiential education and by professional endeavor in a regional and a global community.

V. Disseminate topic and accompanying themes to the university community for reaction

VI. Assignment

- Review *Part III of the Handbook on Reaffirmation -The Quality Enhancement Plan* (pp. 21 – 28) for the next meeting
- Consider membership on possible subcommittees: assessment, infrastructure, history and context of Western Carolina University, outcomes, resources, etc.

VII. Next Meeting

- Next meeting scheduled for June 10, 2005 at 9:00a.m.in the Cardinal Room of the University Center.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.