

Western Carolina University SACS Review  
The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)  
SACS Core Requirement 2.12  
UC Rogers Room  
2:00 p.m., October 27, 2005  
Meeting Minutes

Attended:

Cindy Atterholt- Chemistry and Physics; Troy Barksdale- University Planning; Jennifer Brown- Athletics; Heidi Buchanan- Library; David Coffee- Accountancy, Finance and Entrepreneurship; Jane Eastman- Anthropology & Sociology; Elizabeth Frazier- Registrar's Office; Tammy Haskett- Orientation; Wade Livingston- CSP Graduate Student; Gordon Mercer- Public Policy Institute; Patsy Miller- Asheville Programs; Irene Mueller- Health Sciences; Bob Orr- Office of the CIO; Co- Chair Scott Philyaw-History; Nory Prochaska- Math and Computer Science; Mike Stewart- Facilities Management; Julie Walters-Steele- University Center

Absent:

Grace Allen- Accountancy, Finance and Entrepreneurship; Carol Burton- SACS Director; Kyle Carter- Provost; Phil Cauley- Admissions; A.J. Grube- Office of the Provost; Bill Haggard- Student Affairs; Kadence Otto- Health and Human Performance; Co-Chair Brian Railsback- Honors College; Newton Smith-Chair of the Faculty Senate; Bill Studenc- Public Relations

QEP Topic Historical Development:

**Version # 1**

**“From Students to Educated Citizens: Learning Through Engagement (Enhancing Student Learning by Application of Knowledge, Experiential Education, and Professional Endeavor in a Regional and Global community).”**

**Version # 2**

**“Beyond the Classroom” or “Extending the Classroom”**

**Version # 3**

**“AEIOU: Academic Engagement Inside and Outside the University”**

Agenda:

I. University Feedback to the QEP Outline

- Scott sent an e-mail to the committee summarizing the reactions of individuals within the university community.
- Engagement must be defined carefully since the term has different meanings within the university community.
- The four key elements of the QEP are listed in chronological order not in hierarchical order: service learning, academic and co-curricular programs, Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence, and careers (co-ops, internships, etc.).

## II. Subcommittee Reports

- Introduction reported on by Mike Stewart (Chair).
  - Carol developed a timetable for the QEP.
  - Heidi researched the word “engagement” and reported Steven Bowen’s definition of engagement fits our QEP. She will continue to review definitions.
  - Heidi found four different meanings of engagement in the higher education references.
  - The QEP will define engagement as “academic engagement”.
- Academic and Co-curricular Programs reported on by Gordon Mercer for A.J. Grube (Chair)
  - Reported on data collected by A.J. Grube (Chair)
  - Information had been collected during the summer.
- Faculty Center reported on by Nory Prochaska (Chair)
  - Provides support for faculty.
  - Concerned with the QEP objectives because the Faculty Center does not directly impact students.
  - The Faculty Center could help evaluate engagement across the campus.
  - The Faculty Center could be restructured to support the QEP.
  - The Faculty Center could help with the oversight of the QEP implementation.
  - The question was raised and discussed about where oversight and administration of the QEP would be located.
  - A meeting will be set up with the new interim director Anna McFadden and the committee.
- Service Learning reported on by Troy Barksdale(Chair)
  - Distributed a handout.
  - Irene Mueller commented on the need for organizational change to support faculty and encourage more service learning in the classroom. Her concern is the perception by faculty that the QEP will be adding to their work load.
  - Troy added the same perception could be true for the staff of the University so an examination of the University’s infrastructure will have to be part of implementing the QEP.
- Career Services reported on by Patsy Miller for Kadence Otto(Chair)
  - Kadence is researching internships.
  - Patsy is researching Career Services training and workshops.
  - Dave and Grace are researching coops.
  - The focus is on current practice at WCU keeping in mind the objectives of the QEP.

## IV. Discussion and Conclusion

- Julie shared with the committee that Appalachian State University is creating a “Center for Student Excellence”. She asked the question “Why not a ‘Center for Student Engagement’ at Western Carolina University?”
- There was a great deal of discussion concerning organizational structure, oversight and supervision when the time comes to implement the QEP.
- Brian Gastle offered to read the first draft of the QEP document.
- Next meeting will be on November 3, 2005 at 2:00 in the UC Cardinal Room.