

Western Carolina University SACS Review
The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
SACS Core Requirement 2.12
UC Cardinal Room
1:00 p.m., November 16, 2005
Meeting Minutes

Attended:

Cindy Atterholt- Chemistry and Physics; Heidi Buchanan- Library; Carol Burton- SACS Director; Kyle Carter- Provost; David Coffee- Accountancy, Finance and Entrepreneurship; Jane Eastman- Anthropology & Sociology; Elizabeth Frazier- Registrar's Office; A.J. Grube- Office of the Provost; Bill Haggard- Student Affairs; Irene Mueller- Health Sciences; Kadence Otto- Health and Human Performance; Co- Chair Scott Philyaw-History; Nory Prochaska- Math and Computer Science; Co-Chair Brian Railsback- Honors College; Newton Smith-Chair of the Faculty Senate; Bill Studenc- Public Relations; Julie Walters-Steele- University Center

Absent:

Grace Allen- Accountancy, Finance and Entrepreneurship; Troy Barksdale- University Planning; Jennifer Brown- Athletics; Phil Cauley- Admissions; Tammy Haskett- Orientation; Wade Livingston- CSP Graduate Student; Gordon Mercer-Public Policy Institute; Patsy Miller- WCU Programs in Asheville; Bob Orr- Office of the CIO; Mike Stewart- Facilities Management; Bill Studenc- Public Relations; Julie Walters-Steele- University Center

QEP Topic

AEIOU: Academic Engagement Inside and Outside the University

Agenda:

I. Calendar Review

- Spring semester schedules were turned in to Carol, Brian and Scott so that meetings can be scheduled in advance.
- **Committee members who have not yet turned in a spring semester schedule should get this information to Brian, Scott or Carol as soon as possible.**

II. Review of the SACS Liaison Visit

- Carol thanked the committee members who attended the Ann Chard sessions on November 14.
- A brief review was given of Ann Chard's visit including highlights of her presentations.
- The committee members were praised for their accomplishments to date.
- The QEP process is on schedule.
- The committee's next task is to focus the QEP topic.

III. Committee Discussion about the QEP Topic

- Nory feels our topic is focused.
- Brian said the SACS Liaison made it clear the QEP topic needs a more narrow focus.
- The current QEP draft has 4-5 QEP topics within it, according to Ann Chard.
- Scott stated the SACS Liaison emphasized a topic focus as well as an implementation focus.
- Brian stated the elements of an acceptable QEP as defined by Ann Chard:
 - Complete in five years
 - Specific to WCU
 - Tied to student learning
 - Demonstrates the available resources to successfully implement the plan
 - Buy-in from the constituencies necessary to implement the plan successfully
 - A clear and precise timeline for implementation

- A clearly defined action plan that includes assessment
- Bill Haggard asked about getting campus buy-in for the QEP.
- Bill Haggard asked if the “in class/out of class experiences” could be reframed for the purpose of “engaged learning in and out of the classroom”.
- Brian said he wanted to keep the inside/outside of classroom experience.
- Newt made reference to the October 3rd committee meeting where the Coulter Faculty Center was designated as the “inside the classroom” focus while co-ops and internships were designated as the “outside the classroom” focus.
- Dave suggested a focal point for the QEP topic as the key to implementing a successful QEP, and he does not support the “inside and outside the classroom” concept as a topic focus.
- Dave said the goal should be to achieve something concrete and gave the example of increasing the number of co-ops and internships as a simple and measurable QEP.
- Cynthia believes student research would be easier to do as a QEP than coops and internships.
- Nory said the QEP should get away from specifying “Centers” and should instead look for opportunities for engagement across the campus.
- Irene wants to keep academic engagement but feels engagement has not been clearly defined.

IV. Provost Summary

- Out of his discussions with Ann Chard, Dr. Carter came to some conclusions about the QEP, and he related these thoughts to the committee.
- The institution is in charge of the success of the QEP.
- Campus involvement in the QEP has been demonstrated within the QEP topic development process.
- The present QEP topic is not focused enough.
- The QEP needs a focal point. He suggests a focus on the major or the academic department.
- With so much focus on enrollment growth, WCU has not developed a clear message to define our institution.
- Five themes have been developed recently to market WCU which relate directly to the strategic plan:
 1. Quality of education with an emphasis on academics;
 2. Career preparation;
 3. Hands-on experience inside and outside of the classroom;
 4. Academic programs that are ahead of the curve;
 5. A sense of belonging to the university community.
- Dr. Carter emphasized all of these components are integrated when he was asked which should be the focus of the QEP.
- Career preparation, which includes co-ops and internships, is already in the QEP.
- Keep the QEP discussions at the higher level for the time; less emphasis on specifics until we define what it is we are trying to accomplish.
- Keep co-curricular programs as part of the thinking.
- Make sure University structures are in place to support the QEP implementation.

V. Career Education Discussion

- Carol suggested Career Services as an area for improvement within the existing QEP development process/draft outline; a move toward professionalizing our majors is a potential we could develop.
- Brian brought up the idea of career education within a Career Education Center.
- Bill Haggard mentioned identifying specific learning outcomes across the curriculum moving toward career preparation.
- Scott asked the committee what ingredients were needed to make career education a QEP.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is November 22 at 1:00 p.m. in the UC Cardinal room.