

Western Carolina University SACS Review
The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
SACS Core Requirement 2.12
UC Cardinal Room
1:00 p.m., November 22, 2005
Meeting Minutes

Attended:

Cindy Atterholt- Chemistry and Physics; Carol Burton- SACS Director; 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; 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; Mike Stewart-Administration and Finance;

Absent:

Grace Allen- Accountancy, Finance and Entrepreneurship; Troy Barksdale- University Planning; Jennifer Brown- Athletics; Heidi Buchanan- Library; Kyle Carter- Provost; Phil Cauley- Admissions; A.J. Grube- Office of the Provost; Bill Haggard- Student Affairs;; Patsy Miller- Asheville Programs; Irene Mueller- Health Sciences; Bob Orr- Office of the CIO; Bill Student- Public Relations; Julie Walters-Steele- University Center

Agenda:

I. Committee Issues and Concerns about the QEP Topic

- Mike Stewart's e-mail was referred to as an example of a concern to start the discussion.
- Mike suggested "experiential learning" as the focus of the topic since service learning, active learning, co-curricular activities, internships and co-ops are sub-growthths of this topic.
- Comments included: "Experiential learning" fits into the engagement piece for a faculty AFE so campus buy-in would come sooner from faculty and students. "Experiential learning" could encompass many things. "Experiential learning" is too broad of a topic. "Experiential learning" already has a specific definition in the WCU academic catalog. How would internal engagement in the classroom be defined for this topic?
- Bill Haggard's e-mail suggested the committee consider, as we look at career preparation as a focus, the development of a general skill set, including learning outcomes that all students should have in preparation for a career. He sees both academic and co-curricular participation and responsibility for student success related to these outcomes.
- Newt commented on Career Education as a topic. He asked about how outcomes would be measured and suggested rubrics would have to be developed.
- Newt suggested the topic "Putting Learning to Work" to incorporate internships, experiential learning and classroom engagement.
- Kadence wants to improve student writing.
- Dave commented on the value of co-ops and internships as a topic because the outcomes can be measured and accomplished.
- Jane suggested a liberal studies course be developed to cover career exploration. Students need help with job applications and graduate school applications before they take a capstone experience course.
- Brian suggested we define the "ideal student" then define the ideal plan to help students achieve this level of success; answer the question "What kind of student does WCU want to graduate?"

II. Definition of the Ideal Students

- High GPA
- **Motivated and engaged**
- **Accomplished in the basic skills including reading, writing, math and oral communication**
- **Critical thinking and reasoning skills**
- **Pride and professionalism**
- Defined plan for success
- Interest and appreciation for experiences outside of their major
- Involved in campus activities
- Attends conferences
- Attends class prepared
- Seek out mentors
- Take ownership of their major
- Take pride in the university
- Feel like they make a difference
- Do internships and co-ops
- Develop a resume or an e-portfolio
- Do applied research
- **Active participants in learning**

Brian emphasized the highlighted student characteristics as they relate to the QEP topic discussion concerning career education.

III. Conclusion

- Consider co-ops and internships as a focus of the QEP.
- Answer the questions "How many students would be involved if this were the topic?" and "What needs to be done at WCU to increase the participation in co-ops and internships?"

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is December 2 at 1:00 p.m. in the UC Cardinal room.