

Western Carolina University SACS Review
The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
SACS Core Requirement 2.12
May 3, 2005, 2:00 p.m., Cardinal Room, UC
Meeting Minutes

Attended:

Bill Haggard- Student Affairs; Julie Walters-Steele- University Center; Tammy Haskett- Orientation; David Coffee- College of Business; Gordon Mercer- Graduate School and College of Arts and Science; Troy Barksdale- University Planning; Mike Stewart- Facilities Management; Carol Burton- SACS Director; Jennifer Brown- Athletics; Heidi Buchanan- Library; Nory Prochaska- Math and Computer Science; Bob Orr- Office of the CIO; Cindy Atterholt- Chemistry and Physics; Kyle Carter- Academic Affairs; A.J. Grube- Law, Equity and Auditing; Newton Smith- English; Patsy Miller- Asheville Programs; Elizabeth Frazier- Registrar's Office; Co-Chair Brian Railsback- Honors College; Co-Chair Scott Philyaw-History

Absent:

Nell Leatherwood- Center for Regional Development; Jane Eastman- Anthropology & Sociology
Irene Mueller- Health Sciences; Grace Allen- Accountancy, Finance and Entrepreneurship;
Phil Cauley- Admissions; Bill Studenc- Public Relations; Wade Livingston- CSP Graduate Student;
Bruce Henderson- Psychology; Kadence Otto- Health and Human Performance

Agenda:

I. Approval of the Minutes

- Minutes from the March 31, 2005 meeting were approved.

II. Introduction of New Members

- Jane Eastman- Anthropology & Sociology
- Kadence Otto- Health and Human Performance
- Grace Allen- Accountancy, Finance and Entrepreneurship

III. Discussion of QEP Topics

- Carol distributed QEP discussion notes – Master Copy
- Brian suggested everyone use the “Leadership Document” and the “Discussion Notes” to come up with topic ideas for the next meeting. Topic ideas should be submitted to Scott, Brian and Carol and should be 5-6 words long as a starting point.
- Brian said the goal is to send about 6 topics to the campus and other constituents for review and feedback.
- The topics should reflect the feedback given in the QEP discussion notes and need to fit the QEP standards, as well as reflect institution's mission, etc.
- Topics should be definable, focused and realistic to achieve within a five to ten year time period.
- Carol Burton would like topic suggestions submitted by May 13, 2005.
- Next committee meeting will result in a short list culled from the 20 topics developed from feedback by university constituents.

Discussion:

Dr. Carter requested help to conceptualize the QEP. He raised a question about how broad the topic should be and suggested localizing the topic to smaller segments of students and constituents. Brian thought making the topic too narrow would be a problem. Brian said we would have a better idea once topics are suggested. Carol said the topic should have a narrow focus with broad applications. Scott added that this affects the entire university. Brian stated a lot of information received to date was university wide.

IV. Next Meeting

- Next meeting scheduled for May 18 at 2:00, Killian 104
- QEP topic suggestions submitted by May 13, 2005 to Carol Burton.
- QEP Master documents placed on the WCU-SACS web site.

V. Miscellaneous Discussion

Nory asked the status of mission statement. Newt said the internal and external scans were continuing and a direction should be established by the end of May. The process to amend the strategic plan is ongoing. Dr. Carter said a working draft of the strategic plan should be in place by the end of the fall semester.

Newt asked how the strategic plan will fit with the QEP since the QEP will affect the strategic plan. Dr. Carter answered by summarizing the five key components of the mission statement: 1) Student Centered Learning 2) Engagement 3) Economic Development 4) Aspiring for Quality 5) Growth.

Carol asked if a mechanism for faculty input was in place. Mike raised a concern about infrastructure supporting growth. Scott added a comment regarding the support of student learning with infrastructure since historically the university had not experienced a lot of growth. We need to think about budget and resources as part of the QEP.

Dr. Carter said his main theme from the Academic Forum he presented concerned the systems of Western Carolina University. He stated the systems in place today were created for the institution 20-30 years ago but these are not the systems of the future. Dr. Carter asked if the institution was close enough to student learning outcomes to satisfy SACS.

Newt said the focus should be on student learning first and must engage in support of the QEP then once a theme is determined, resources to implement the plan must be evaluated.

Nory asked how to guarantee quality while growing. Brian suggested subcommittees to discuss other issues such as this one.

According to Scott, departments had questions such as "Who does the QEP relate to?" and "What about outreach?" Newt wanted to know how to get an international focus into the discussion. Bill asked if students were being prepared for a global society. Gordon mentioned a borderless campus. Brian brought up interdisciplinary learning and the application of knowledge.

Dave asked what kind of assessment data the institution has right now. He said LSU did a survey of the student body. Dave expressed his concerns about what he is seeing in his classes and feels there is a lack of academic culture in the classroom. Troy answered by saying the university does not have this data.

Brian stated if the QEP is successful, then the university will have a common theme. Bob added everyone at WCU should be able to buy into the QEP. Dr. Carter said the QEP could be transformational. Newt pointed out the need to measure where the institution goes. Brian suggested assessment be another subcommittee of the QEP Committee, in addition to subcommittees on resources, support and infrastructure concerns.

Scott asked for focus and coherence from the QEP so WCU does not appear to be just another regional comprehensive university. Nory pointed out that the QEP committee needs to determine if the QEP fits WCU. Newt shared the faculty senate's discussion regarding academic integrity and academic inquiry.

Meeting adjourned.