

Western Carolina University SACS Review
The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
SACS Core Requirement 2.12
UC Cardinal Room
11:00 a.m., September 26, 2005
Meeting Minutes

Attended:

Grace Allen- Accountancy, Finance and Entrepreneurship; Carol Burton- SACS Director; David Coffee- College of Business; Jane Eastman- Anthropology & Sociology; Elizabeth Frazier- Registrar's Office; Tammy Haskett- Orientation; Bob Orr- Office of the CIO; Kadence Otto- Health and Human Performance; Co- Chair Scott Philyaw-History; Co-Chair Brian Railsback- Honors College; Newton Smith- English; Julie Walters-Steele- University Center; Brian Gastle- English

Absent:

Cindy Atterholt- Chemistry and Physics; 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; Wade Livingston- CSP Graduate; Gordon Mercer- College of Arts and Sciences; Patsy Miller- Asheville Programs; Irene Mueller- Health Sciences; Nory Prochaska- Math and Computer Science; Mike Stewart- Facilities Management
Bill Studenc- Public Relations;

QEP Topic:

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).

Proposed QEP Topic:

Beyond the Classroom

Proposed QEP Topic after discussion:

Extending the Classroom

Agenda:

I. National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

- The QEP Committee agreed to Western Carolina University participating in the "American Democracy Project" consortium.

II. Proposed Outline

- Brian distributed a draft outline for the QEP.
- The outline was discussed.
- Brian suggested new subcommittees be formed to address the outline format and content.
- Kadie suggested that the existing subcommittees address the outline format and content.

III. Discussion about the Draft Outline - Research

- Kadie suggested the topic be narrowed down to what helps students learn. Subcommittees could do the research.
- Carol will share information on existing research.

- Grace asked if University Planning includes “experiential learning” in their survey of graduating students.
- Carol stated that the NSSE asks questions about “experiential learning” but does not ask about the quality of the experience.
- Scott suspects the research supports the benefits of “experiential learning” if the experience is done correctly using “best practices”.

IV. Discussion about Topics

- Grace liked Scott’s explanation of “Beyond the Classroom”.
- Kadie prefers “Transforming the Classroom”.
- Scott suggested “Engaged Learning in the Transformed Classroom”.
- Bob offered “Extending the Classroom through Engaged Learning” as a topic.
- Of the six topics Newt suggested, the committee really liked “A.E.I.O.U.: Academic Engagement Inside and Outside of the University”.
- A.E.I.O.U. was well received because it includes inside and outside the university. Per Newt, inside the university is service learning and liberal studies while outside of the university would be experiential learning and coop/internship programs.
- Dave made a statement about engagement being too broad to assess. He would like to see the topic narrowed down and operationalized so it is simpler to assess.
- Scott said for implementation and assessment should be narrowly defined before applying the concepts to the university.

VI. General Questions, Issues and Discussion

- Dave asked if the QEP could be as simplistic as showing a greater number of students participating in internships.
- Carol stated the QEP must measure improvement to student learning over the next ten years.
- What is meant by “beyond the classroom”?
- Student learning outcomes should prepare students for what comes next whether it is a career or further academic study. Focus on making sure all students are as prepared as the nursing, engineering and education students.
- Application of knowledge is learning by doing.
- The QEP does not focus on what the university does.
- Brian asked if the QEP should shift to a junior/senior and graduate student focus since the issue was raised about freshman and sophomore students not knowing enough to have a valuable and relevant “service learning” experience.
- Grace feels a liberal studies buy in for the QEP is important.
- Scott thought recruitment and retention could be a focus.
- Brian said the QEP does not have this focus.

VII. Summary

- The committee must get a draft outline to the campus for review very soon.
- A QEP work session is scheduled for October 3rd from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Killian 104.