

Western Carolina University SACS Review
The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
SACS Core Requirement 2.12
UC Catamount Room
2:00 p.m., October 11, 2005
Meeting Minutes

Attended:

Troy Barksdale- University Planning; Heidi Buchanan- Library; Carol Burton- SACS Director;; Elizabeth Frazier- Registrar's Office; A.J. Grube- Office of the Provost; Patsy Miller- Asheville Programs; Bob Orr- Office of the CIO; Co- Chair Scott Philyaw-History; Nory Prochaska- Math and Computer Science; Co-Chair Brian Railsback- Honors College; Mike Stewart- Facilities Management;

Absent:

Cindy Atterholt- Chemistry and Physics; Grace Allen- Accountancy, Finance and Entrepreneurship; Jennifer Brown- Athletics; Kyle Carter- Provost; Phil Cauley- Admissions; David Coffee- College of Business; Jane Eastman- Anthropology & Sociology; Bill Haggard- Student Affairs; Tammy Haskett- Orientation; Wade Livingston- CSP Graduate; Gordon Mercer- College of Arts and Sciences; Irene Mueller- Health Sciences; Kadence Otto- Health and Human Performance; Newton Smith- English; Bill Studenc- Public Relations; Julie Walters-Steele- University Center

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 Classroom”

Agenda:

I. Update on the Outline Draft

- Brian would like to send out a draft of the QEP outline to the university community next week.
- Brian will send the outline to the committee for review before the outline is sent out to the campus community.
- Suggestions to the outline should be e-mailed to Brian or Scott.
- Emphasis was placed on getting a draft outline out to the university community very soon.

II. Glenn Bowen- Service Learning Guest Speaker from Student Affairs

- Service learning was defined as community service tied to what students learn in the classroom.
- A brief history of service learning at WCU was presented.
- Engagement was defined as integrated service learning focused on the four academic colleges of WCU.

- Service learning at WCU was described as faculty making direct contact with the community members and then involving students in the planning of the service learning experience for the class.
- Twenty-five courses at WCU have a significant service learning component (up to 20% of the grade for the course) while other courses give extra credit for service learning.
- Opportunities exist to grow the service learning program with numerous community agencies within Jackson, Macon and Swain counties.
- For more information about how service learning works at other universities, visit the Ohio State University web site.
- Campus Compac is a state organization WCU joined this year to assist our institution with our civic mission.
- The Campus Compac website has information about engagement and service learning.
- The service learning department at WCU currently employs one full time coordinator, Glenn plus five part-time student peer evaluators.
- Faculty fellows within each of the colleges act as resources to help to coordinate service learning and academics.
- Service learning assessment data is available.

III. Mardy Ashe- Career Services Guest Speaker from Enrollment Management

- Career Services serves three populations- students, faculty and employers.
- The focus of Career Services is on finding a job.
- Experience has shown that without faculty involvement there is no student involvement.
- A Career Services faculty liaison is assigned within each academic department.
- Internships are coordinated through academic departments.
- Coops are coordinated through Career Services.
- WCU is one of a few institutions who offer credit for coops because coops are regarded as a work experience not an academic experience.
- Career Services has some assessment data available for the programs it coordinates, however the assessment data is not tied to student learning.
- For assessment data, NAATE and NACE were suggested as resources.
- For Career Services to offer more coop opportunities, a master's level job development coordinator would need to be hired and more money would need to be allocated for advertising.
- To grow a successful coop program, faculty would have to recruit the students.

IV. Beth Tyson-Lofquist- Coulter Faculty Center Guest Speaker from the Office of the Provost

- The core mission of the Coulter Faculty Center is student learning by supporting instruction.
- The Coulter Faculty Center mission supports the QEP since the seven dimensions of effective teaching include assessment and engagement.
- The Coulter Faculty Center could have an expert in engagement, an expert in the assessment and a QEP facilitator to support and assist faculty who want to enhance student learning through engagement.
- The services of the Coulter Faculty Center would be offered in a user friendly manner to encourage faculty participation.
- The Coulter Faculty Center is currently under reorganization.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 18th, at 3:00 p.m. Location: tba.

