

## **QEP Research, Literature Review, Best Practices, and Writing Subcommittee 2015-2017**

*12/8/15 meeting*

### **Committee Members Present**

Burton Callicott, Chair

Tim Callahan

Brian Fisher

Hollis France

Michelle Futrell

Seth Pritchard

Kendra Stewart

David D

### **Agenda**

I. Introductions

II. Review of charges

    plan for workflow

    secretary

    google docs

III. Report from QEP Curriculum Subcommittee

Course infusion -- literature review

Notes -- taken by Michelle Futrell:

In lieu of a standing secretary, the group agreed to rotate that role. Michelle volunteered to fill that role for this meeting.

Burton shared that he has created a Googledoc folder to house all committee materials. Following this meeting, he will share this folder with the group. Members using an alternative to their College email address should let Burton know so they can be given access.

Brian noted that the Curriculum Subcommittee is chaired by Bob Mignone and Jeri Cabot. That committee has discussed the five goals in the original QEP proposal. The committee feels comfortable with the goals in the proposal as they are currently written. They want to explore the components of each on a goal by goal basis. Their current plan involves taking 2 meeting to address each goal with the intent to wrap all of them up by their April 15, 2016 deadline. As they work through each goal they will develop strategies associated with each goal and add any new ideas that arise at that time.

Burton reviewed that the main charge of this subcommittee is to identify the strategies that will be part of the QEP and then review the literature and complete the actual writing of the proposal. He further noted that this group should review best practices of other institutions, align goals with the strategic planning process, demonstrate evidence of need (some data already exists). In addition, this group is the primary writing group and will be responsible for preparing the executive summary.

Brian noted that the course infusion piece was vetted heavily in working group.

Brian noted that he felt it was important that we all had input into the process and all subcommittees should be able to provide input. Brian noted that he has met with Dean of HSS and Dean SSM and will meet with other Deans, department chair and program directors.

One key question discussed related to identifying need and determining in what areas our students falling short.

An example of need was cited from a conversation with a Boeing representative who asserted that students coming from higher ed had difficulty with decision making for the first 5-6 years of employment. Kendra also noted that we are working with the Charleston area Chamber of Commerce in many ways including assessing specific business needs that can be filled by higher education. A final example was provided from Wofford College that has implement a Professional Development model for students which includes creating professional and personal portfolio to include on and off campus experiences, not tied to any particular discipline.

The group went on to discuss next steps.

- Resiliency Coalition: What can we do 10 years in the future to prepare for hazards of living in low level areas? Can we work with the city to identify ways to incorporate students and bring those experts into our classrooms?
- Role of Office of Sustainability moving forward: Sustainability Hub: transdisciplinary hub; Dean Auerbach and Dean Hale were both said to be supportive. Budget committee is currently looking at this item. Should this committee being looking at this as well?
- Identification of different programs and centers: Are there areas of collaboration? Could it be a fellowship approach (combine UG & Grad) work together to look for grants? Could we bring in representatives from the various centers to talk to us about their programs?
  - 4 Key Centers were identified: Riley Center (social, cultural), Hazards (natural resilience), Avery (diversity), Entrepreneurship
- Economic Development: Should this be included in some way? Possible collaboration with Sea Grant Consortium which is not tied to one institution, and may allow us to tie in to other institutions
- Global and Gender perspective should also be included

Arizona State was provided as a good example of an academic umbrella that brings folks together with a sustainability focus.

It was determined that this line of thinking may give us a clear focal point moving forward, and help us establish a platform on which we can build.

Burton will add a google doc for programs we can evaluate into the Sustainability Hub document.

It was also noted that sustainability could be included in Study Abroad programs or as a stand alone study abroad program.

Additional discussion was held about the possibility of adding one credit courses to cover sustainability issues, digital badges, and certificates that are labeled in a way that is recognized on OAKS.

One idea coming out of the Curriculum Committee was to identify a Problem of the Year. Water was provided as an example. Good support was noted in the curriculum committee including a two course sequence. This would be something the Hub could bring together.

Final discussion revolved around the need to create a shared vision and mission. This would be needed to create buy-in from the campus community and overall ownership of the program. It was noted that this may need to start in the environmental realm, but it does not have to be limited solely to an environmental focus. Although the environment is truly part of everything, most people don't perceive it in that way. It may be helpful to focus on sustainability by getting people to care about each other and the public good.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Futrell