

QEP Informal Meeting Notes – February 18, 2011

In attendance: Co-Chairs Dr. Tom Rath and Professor Kathy Clark; Dr. Christy Gilfert, Dr. George Manacheril, Dr. Theo Koupelis, Martin Tawil, Dr. Rebecca Gobitti, Judy Van Gaalen, Ivana Ilic, Dennette Foy, Maureen McClintock, Myra Walters, Dr. Theo Koupelis, Scott Van Selow, Mike Chiacchiero

Kathy reminded the committee that the QEP Report is due September 26. Tom recapped the Steering Committee discussions which took place earlier in the morning, and asked for the Committee's consideration of the following:

- Delay Cornerstone Experience pilot implementation until Spring 2012, based on the following rationale:
 - Structurally, we need more time for professional development
 - We need to clarify who will teach, trying to accommodate interested faculty internally and/or hiring a full-time faculty member with significant FYE experience
 - The course is not yet developed; the consultant who will be working with faculty will be at the Lee Campus March 24-25
 - Financial aspects have not yet been worked out, both in terms of the QEP budget as well as potential incentives for students' participation in the pilot
 - We wish to embolden the QEP marketing/communications plan
 - We wish to maximize Fall professional development days
 - We need additional student input and also need time to recruit students for pilot implementation
- Expand the critical thinking component within the QEP beyond Cornerstone Experience to include all instruction
 - We are heavily invested in critical thinking; a professional development plan which touches all faculty is the logical next step
 - At the end of five years, all ESC faculty will be employing critical thinking as a teaching and learning methodology

Myra commented that communicating the scope of what we are planning is essential. The FOE study was the first step; we then design a professional development program in support of priority initiatives, and after that create the course.

The Committee discussed the feasibility of a Spring implementation in terms of enrolling first time college students. Kevin Shriner will be asked to conduct additional research and report back to assure that one or two sections at each campus is feasible. A three-year trend analysis was mentioned.

An additional benefit of a Spring pilot would be having time to make modifications over the summer supporting a successful Fall 2012 implementation. There were many comments in support of taking the time we need to do it right. We were reminded that Dr. Goldstein said we were not expected to have anything implemented next Fall, and that the QEP evaluator will be here as a consultant to make certain our plan is solid.

Rebecca reported that the College Prep department will be implementing significant changes this Fall, so Spring implementation would be preferable for them.

The need to secure faculty buy in was discussed. Using the Fall development days for QEP kick off, training and additional discussion would be of tremendous value. The Steering Committee discussed initiating related professional development activities over the summer.

In response to an idea that we might not want to engage in pilot implementation at all in AY 2011-12, Myra mentioned that many institutions have secured grant funding based on favorable assessment results from pilot implementations.

“Pilot the pilot” was mentioned as a way to test linkages to student services on a small scale. It is not just about the course. Another idea was to infuse an existing SLS course with some CE course components prior to QEP implementation.

Tom summarized the discussions saying that while it is necessary to allow people the time they need to embrace the QEP conceptually, and to engage in meaningful professional development, we also need to be sure we have enough students for feasible pilot implementation in the Spring semester. We will confirm by next week’s meeting. In the meantime, the Steering Committee will move forward in developing a professional development calendar by the end of March and report back.

Myra said her Communications Committee will focus on faculty communications. They have developed mission and philosophy statements for publication at the appropriate time. Kathy stated that future Chairs meetings will include QEP talking points for dissemination to faculty.

Budget development remains a high priority, and the Steering Committee will be working with Gina Doeble next week. Kathy shared information on the positive economic impact of student retention as a result of FYE initiatives. The Committee will ask the Financial Services department to conduct a cost/revenue analysis for the QEP.

Future QEP meeting agendas will include FYE implementation updates relevant to the QEP.

Tom reported that the CE course can be accommodate in nearly all programs; Tom will be working with Health Sciences program representatives to overcome perceived obstacles.

Kathy reported that she conducted a mini-assembly for Collier student services personnel and others who were unable to attend the January Cornerstone Assembly. It was received well. Tom will conduct a similar session at Charlotte on February 28, and Kevin Shriner will lead the Lee Campus session, date TBA.

Closing comments focused on the relevancy goal, i.e. students grouped in course sections based on academic pathways; the Committee noted that grouping by majors is not recommended.

/mlm