

Minutes: QEP Student Learning Outcomes/Assessment Subcommittee

Tuesday, October 21, 2014: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Attendance: Michelle Boyer-Pennington, Carol Swayze, Sheila Otto, Tina Johnson, Chris Brewer, Dwight Brooks, Mari Weller, Tim Graeff, Kari Neely, Michael Hein, Kallie Revels

Michelle called the meeting to order and asked for corrections and approval of last meeting's minutes. The minutes were approved with the following corrections noted:

1. ~~NT~~ Tina agrees that we need a definition of engagement and pointed out the UNC QEP as an example.
2. Kari reminded the group that critical thinking measures are not embedded right now in ~~English~~ some General Education classes.

Michelle announced that there is some funding in the budget to attend conferences related to the QEP. Jason and Michelle are attending one in Nashville in December (SACS). She also asked if anyone would like to attend a mid-November conference on ePortfolios . It will be held on Monday and Tuesday (November 10 – 11) in Athens, GA as part of AAEEBL (The Association for Authentic, Experiential and Evidence-Based Learning) Southeast. Whoever attends will need to network and bring a lot of things back. The goal is to identify schools that are already using ePortfolios for this purpose and network with them to gain ideas. Anyone wishing to go should notify Michelle. At some point we have to identify names of people who could serve as reviewers or consultants (external). The person attending might meet people who are well-versed in QEPs that involve ePortfolios.

The next order of business was to discuss the student learning outcomes. We began with SLO 1: (Integrative Thinking/Reflective Thinking). There was much discussion as to whether this included critical thinking skills. Sheila asked if we can show a clear path between engagement and our SLOs. What would be a good way to evaluate or measure? Since we had proposed to use NSEE scores as a measure, Carol clarified with Chris that NSEE doesn't offer the ability to identify sub-populations. Chris also noted that the NSEE is administered on a schedule set by THEC, so we could just pull some questions from the NSEE and do them every year if we wanted. We could also consider doing a pre/post and Graduating Senior Survey. There was much discussion regarding "making connections across academic contexts". Martha noted that some Physics courses would have a hard time adding these to all classes. That would also go for other science and math courses as well. The question is whether the measure is at the course level or later on. The major as a whole has a thesis requirement which would bring in the other areas. It was suggested that we could pull out "connections across academic context" as a second bullet under SLO 1. Tim suggested that we make three bullets: (1) In-class, (2) Out-of-class, and (3) Make connections across academic contexts. Michelle agreed to work on that further and reminded the group that by next time, we need to be able to answer the following questions: (1) Is there something we are missing? (2) Is there something that we should not have here? We will begin with SLO 2 next meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.