

Louisiana State University at Alexandria
Administration QEP Focus Group
June 11, 2013

Participants: Dr. Coreil, Dr. Hatfield, Teresa Seymour, Dr. David Wesse, Reed Blalock, Deron Thaxton, Heather Poole

Procedures: Dr. Mary Treuting and Dr. Cathy Cormier contacted the group by email and invited them to attend the meeting. Links to the QEP survey data were included in the email, participants were instructed to review the QEP survey results prior to the scheduled focus group. Mary & Cathy developed focus group questions which were distributed to participants at the beginning of the meeting. The discussion was lead by the QEP Co-Chairs, Dr. Mary Treuting and Dr. Cathy Cormier. Notes were taken during the meeting to capture data provided by participants.

Discussion Questions and Responses

What were your initial reactions to the results of the QEP Survey?

- We need to work on class schedules and library hours
- Preparedness – faculty do not perceive students as being prepared for class and students do not feel they are prepared but expressed lack of help from faculty. It seems that a first year experience would be beneficial.
- Comments related to tutoring were noted. Student expressed need for more peer tutoring.

There was some discussion on results of QEP survey that were not related to the QEP. Dr. Coreil suggested that we focus on the QEP today and discuss the other issues in another meeting. Teresa stated that she already had a list of things that could be handled by her department. Mary and Cathy commented that they were informed at the January SACS Workshop that several things may come up, not related to the QEP but could be addressed by the University.

Do any possible topics for the QEP jump out at you?

- First year Experience. Follow up question: What would this look like to you?

Advising – students should know what they need to progress through graduation.

Supplemental instructions

Study Skills course

Cohort building

Creating support for students

Discussion ensued regarding if this would be a course conducted during the first semester or would it carry across the curriculum. Several suggestions were made:

- One hour credit course to focus on learning styles, learning communities, student learning, how processes work on campus to facilitate progression
- Identify high risk courses, math, biology, and fine arts and integrate teaching strategies to help students be successful. Work with faculty to help them identify teaching strategies that would help students be successful.

- Integrate the QEP across the curricula. The comment was made that if focus was only on first semester that faculty would continue with current practices and not see the QEP as important to them. Integrating across the curricula ensures that students at every level will be impacted and strategies for success are implemented at every level.
- Students have too many choices coming into the first year, establish block program with prescribed courses to take and culminate with a service learning project. This will help them develop cohorts and connect to others on campus. Provide more structure.
- Certain items should be included on all syllabi, student resources in particular so that students are aware of resources on campus.
- Coaching and peer mentoring should be included in QEP
- Developing critical thinking should be included in the QEP.
- Need to look at math and reading. Traditionally these have been high failure course. Discussion ensued regarding faculty expectations and rigor of courses. The question was asked are students coming in prepared for college. Is there something that we could do with high schools to improve preparation.
- Will need to get faculty buy in. Many faculty may be resistant to changing. Suggestion was made to promote pairing up faculty to help those that may be slow to change.

How would outcomes be measured?

- Compare % of Withdrawals
- Comparison of GPA
- Retention rates
- Progression before and after
- Completion rates
- Make a connection with critical thinking and gen ed outcomes
- Use ENGAGE ACT Assessment

How would you feel about incorporating QEP measure as part of the faculty evaluation?

Discussion ensued regarding process for faculty evaluations. It was agreed that the form should be reviewed and possibly be revised. The group was supportive of having some measure of student success on the faculty evaluation form.

Respectfully submitted Cathy Cormier 6/15/13