

Louisiana State University at Alexandria
Faculty QEP Focus Group
June 17, 2013 3pm

Participants: Rusty Gaspard, Tanya Lueder, Jeremy Simmons

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.

What was your initial reaction to the QEP survey data?

- Students are consumers; the campus needs to be more student friendly.
- Lots of comments about online learning. But some students would prefer to take a course in the classroom with teacher, especially math. We have a high W/F rate in online math courses.
- We need to be more flexible in course offerings

Possible Topics

- Orientation Class: incorporate reading and study skills

Discussion regarding why students are not successful:

- Afraid
- They didn't know what they didn't know
- Lack of self-awareness
- Do not know how to study
- Miss class
- Students should be forced to do lab time but the way things are currently set up for faculty workload faculty do not get credit for the work done in labs
- SI's not working in Math but working in Chem and Biol. There has been poor attendance, students are not participating. When we had the lab open, with one person hired to manage the lab students would come and stay. Groups of students in the same class would also come together. This really worked. Faculty may be willing to trade office hours for time in lab.
- Online tutoring, use of PIAZZ and tutoring at night might be beneficial.
- "Creating a community is the only way to change culture" Students should be introduced to college culture during the first semester. It is an attitude. We need a change in culture. Peers and communities.

What should the plan to impact student learning include?

- Study skills

- Literacy
- Reading comprehension
- How to read a syllabus
- How to calculate grades
- Attitude change regarding learning especially gen ed courses. This needs to be support by faculty in all disciplines. Students and faculty often view gen ed as a hoop to jump through, it is not valued or respected across campus.
- Empower students. Help them realize time required outside of class to be successful.
- Practice time: often students do not understand commitment required to be successful
- Something basic; reading/writing
- “Idea of being a life long learner”
- Revisit learning communities:
 1. We need to revisit learning communities. It was done quickly and not really developed. It really should be part of a course, if students do not get credit or points for participation they will do other things. Everything has to be tied for a grade.
 2. Identify high risk student on admission. Test reading comprehension.
 3. All students should participate, not just residential students. Even high ACT students do not always have study skills for college. Veterans, 1st generation college, and single moms.
 4. Consider lab hours that count as credit in Eng, Read, Math.
 5. We also need to consider how we are going to assist incoming athletes to be successful. I think this is a great boost for the school be we need to be prepared to help them. “Tutoring on the Road” “Provide hot spots for them on bus”

Measures

- Look for scale that measure college preparedness. Identify students at high risk on admission
- Consider: Students with ACT older than 5 years, # years between HS and college, and transfer students as possibly high risk.

Faculty Evaluation:

- Faculty should be evaluated on participation in QEP and efforts to promote student success
- Faculty should assume role of coach, motivator
- Faculty need to be valued. All faculty should get a t-shirt, why not, they give them out at orientation.