

Louisiana State University at Alexandria
Staff QEP Focus Group
June 18, 2013 10 am

Participants: Heather Williams, Mary McCampbell, Sherri Bovey, Rachel Hunter

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?

Staff reported that the email with links was not received so QEP data was not reviewed prior to the meeting. One participant did pull up the data during the focus group and was able to comment. Participants were instructed to review the data at a later time and email Cathy or Mary regarding comments.

What do you think we could do on campus to improve student learning outcomes?

- Students have difficulty successfully completing Reading Praxis exam. Components: literacy, inferential comprehension. Every course should emphasize reading comprehension.
- Emphasize “common core” curriculum which includes communication. Students should be able to “ask intelligent questions” and “lead discussions”. Class format should encourage developing these skills.
- Online courses could include discussion boards that are student led.
- Students are not receiving the support in HS that they need to be successful in college.
- Continue with SI program.
- Communication across campus needs to be improved.
- Need professors with caring attitudes. Professors with positive attitudes to motivate students.
- We have lots of problems with financial aid. I know that is not a QEP by if students are worried about their finances they cannot focus on class.
- Test reading in every course. Include specific questions on test that test reading.
- Improve tutoring opportunities for students. Not sure this is realistic but 24 hour work lab as mentioned in QEP survey.

- Could have a virtual course with test questions to assess reading.
- Study skills should be taught. We use to have a learning center and students were taught study skills. This was really helpful.
- We should have a study skills course which include reading comprehension. A mandatory freshman class, this could be substituted for the current one hour computer literacy course.
- All courses could reinforce what is taught in the freshmen course.
- Same language should be used as students' progress through degree plans. That way they will know what you are talking about.
- Need to post all resources for students. Many do not know what is available. Need to improve communication across campus.

Do you think faculty should be evaluated on participation in QEP?

- This seems "reasonable". If this is how the University is being accredited than faculty has to support the accreditation process.
- This would make faculty accountable.

Respectfully submitted 6/19/2013