

Louisiana State University at Alexandria
Student QEP Focus Group
June 19, 2013 12pm

Participants: Michelle Tarven, Theresa Lacaux, Landry McClue, Javonee Williams, Christian J. Perez

Procedures: Dr. Mary Treuting and Dr. Cathy Cormier contacted the biology four faculty members teaching morning classes in the summer and ask them to forward an email to students enrolled in their courses. Faculty were also requested to remind student verbally at the end of class. The sessions were scheduled at noon with pizza provided as an incentive to attend. Students present in the building were also recruited on site to participate. Students were informed that comments would be anonymous and participation was voluntary. Mary & Cathy introduced themselves before starting and explained the purpose of the QEP. 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 will help students with learning?

- The more visual and hands on the better.
- In A&P we piece bones together, that really helps me learn
- Understanding why, if you understand the process that really helps to relate the information
- Group studying, I met a friend in one of my classes through group work and now we schedule all our classes together. I call her or she calls me if we don't understand something, it has really helped me.
- Repeating BIOL 1161 helped me very much. The second time I knew what I had to do and I did everything to pass. I had an SI and they helped very much. They made it "click". "Oh that is what she said in class" The SI said things in everyday language that really helped me understand. They did pretest question to help me prepare for the test. The SI also gave me study guides for the test. They simplified things.
- I had never written a paper before I went to college. The writing center was very helpful but it is not open in the summer.
- I could not understand what the teacher wanted me to write but the writing center helped with that.
- SI, it really helps if the SI took the same teacher. Focus is not on what teacher wants but on knowing concepts
- Teachers need to bridge gap between class and test. Break it down and give real life examples of how to figure it out. Break information down into smaller groups.
- Lots of students don't know instructors are approachable. Some are very approachable and don't want you to leave the office until you understand.

- Some teachers know when students are having trouble and they schedule review sessions as office hours. The teacher does not teach during this time, students “have the floor” and can ask about anything they do not understand.
- Some teachers give extra points for SI, this helps motivate

How prepared were you for college?

- Never studied in HS
- Never know how to study
- Never looked in a microscope before college
- You need to be self learning in college. In HS they handed everything to you.

How could LSUA help get students prepared?

- Study skills class
- Intro to college
- Academic experience class
- How to read and take notes
- How to get organized
- You cannot time limit studying. Tell them to stop telling how much you should study for a class, you have to study until you get it, it is different for everyone.
- Should be a mandatory class to help you be a student.
- Take it before you enter college

Discussion regarding orientation

- Do not think it was helpful. It was geared to HS graduates and I am a mother with a child. I had to take off work. .A lot of games and playing, a waste of time. Working Moms want the information then let go home.
- Stress importance of studying
- How different college is from HS
- Resources on campus
- Writing lab, I didn't know about it until just now.
- Benefits to orientation and I think that is why they do the games I did meet some people, I did not know anyone because I am an older student. I am still friends with them today.
- The tour was very good.
- Would be helpful to review degree audit sheets, website, Moodle, and schedules.
- Do not think online tutorials for this information would be helpful.

Discussion regarding online courses

- Online classes do help with cost of gas

- I don't want all online, the class room helps
- Classes offered part online part on campus would really separate LSUA apart from other colleges. You have the benefit of online but teacher as well.

What types of things help you learn?

- My chemistry teacher post online lectures with audio, they are very helpful. This gives you more opportunities for hands on in class, extra practice. More time to work on problems in class. Can get more details about what you don't understand.
- When I read I do not always process. You need to find out what kind of learner you are.
- Reading before you come to class helps with comprehension in class. Also you can know ask questions.
- I comprehend better if I write when I read. I need to know what I am aiming for.
- Rewriting the power points, make notes and then go back to book if I need more information.
- If you can teach it back you know it.
- Study until you know it.
- Groups in class help you teach each other
- Can't force groups. Let it happen. Some people don't match up and one person wants to be by themselves. Let students decide if they want to do groups or work by themselves.