Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) at Mason

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QEP Purpose: A Review

- A five-year intentionally designed plan that is achievable and institutionally supported
- Component of SACS reaffirmation of accreditation
- Addresses a well-defined topic or issue to enhance and improve undergraduate student learning
- Involves faculty, students, and staff from across the Mason community in all stages – planning, implementation and assessment
- Has the potential to transform Mason around the chosen topic

Think. Learn. Succeed.
Progress to Date

The Initial QEP Planning Committee:

- Met regularly from April 2008-May 2009
- Invited proposals from faculty, students, and staff and provided multiple opportunities for feedback
  - Ex: the QEP Café and the topic selection survey
- Chose student scholarship and creative activity as the focus of our QEP, based on broad-based community feedback and our SACS-derived topic evaluation criteria

A newly formed planning committee has been appointed to draft the planning document
Mason’s QEP

- Will foster a pervasive culture of student scholarship and creative activity
  - Beginning in the first year and continuing through graduation
- Will stretch beyond disciplinary and campus boundaries
- Will provide students with opportunities to generate new knowledge and/or create new works
- Will increase faculty/student interaction outside the classroom
Mason’s QEP

- Will lead to greater engagement and deeper learning inside and outside of the classroom

- Examples of scholarly and creative activities:
  - Creative discovery and expression in one’s discipline – individually or in groups, working with faculty
  - Interdisciplinary scholarship
  - Research related to global concerns, building on our strengths with study abroad and our growing international student population
  - Community-based projects to address regional issues
Next Steps

- Continue exploring research literature and programs that foster undergraduate scholarship and creative activity at other institutions
  - Looking to identify best practices, as well as resources on implementation and assessment of these programs

- Connect with institutions with exemplary programs (e.g., possible site visits and/or invited consultants)

- Finalize student learning outcomes, program activities, assessments, and faculty/departmental support that will be incorporated into our QEP

- Draft and revise the plan – Goal is that final version is ready for SACS: December 2010
## Our Timeline

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<th>When</th>
<th>Goals and Objectives</th>
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| Fall 2009 – Spring 2010 | - Develop and write QEP  
- Work with academic and other units to plan for their roles in implementation & assessment  
- Continue research on implementation & assessment of topic                                                                                                                                 |
| Fall 2010             | - Finalize writing of QEP                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Spring 2011           | - January: Submit to QEP to SACS  
- **March 29-31st**: On-site visit by SACS  
  - QEP as major focus  
  - Resolve all outstanding compliance recommendations                                                                                                                                 |
| Fall 2011             | - Begin implementation & assessment of QEP  
- Note: Year 1 of 5  
- Celebrate our reaffirmation of accreditation                                                                                                                                                         |
Your Leadership as We Move Forward

- Facilitate conversations about how your unit can contribute to fostering a culture of student scholarship and creative activity
- Share your ideas and concerns with others, particularly QEP planning committee members
- Participate in and contribute to requests for information and feedback from planning committee representatives
- Stay updated on the QEP process by visiting qep.gmu.edu