Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) at Mason

September 2008
What is a QEP?

- A five-year intentionally designed plan that is both achievable and tangible
- A component of SACS Reaccreditation
- Addresses a well-defined topic or issue to enhance and improve undergraduate student learning
- Involves faculty, students, and staff from across the Mason community
- Has the potential to transform Mason around the chosen topic
Example SACS-approved topics

- Course redesign for large classes
- Strengthening global competence
- Enhancing undergraduate scholarly inquiry
- Educating student leaders to make a difference
Why is the QEP important?

- It will be a major focus of our on-site visit for SACS Reaccreditation in spring of 2011
- An opportunity to enhance student learning with resources to succeed
- It can transform Mason and can help move us from #1 “up-and-coming” to “arrived”
What does the QEP involve?

- Clear focus on an issue related to student learning
- Institutional capacity to succeed
- A well-designed assessment plan
- Broad-based involvement from the university community in the topic selection, development, implementation, and assessment
Consider these questions...

- Based on our experiences AND our institutional assessment data, what are we missing at Mason that could enhance student learning?

- Is there something that is already happening on campus that we could build upon or strengthen?
Where are we in our process?

- QEP Planning Committee has been meeting regularly since mid-April
  - Members appointed by President Merten and Provost Stearns
  - Committee Chair: Kim Eby

- Academic units with an undergraduate component and units that support student learning (University Life, Libraries, DoIT, etc.) have a representative
Where are we in our process?

- We have researched and discussed:
  - SACS’ QEP guidelines
  - Institutional planning documents & data
  - Articles about student learning

- We have generated:
  - Four example topic proposals for feedback
  - Proposal Guidelines for those who wish to submit a proposal
  - Criteria for reviewing proposals and selecting our final topic
### Important Dates

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<tr>
<th>When?</th>
<th>What will be happening?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. – Nov. 2008</td>
<td>□ Request feedback and proposals from faculty, students, and staff</td>
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<td>Jan. – Feb. 2009</td>
<td>□ Second round of feedback from faculty, students, and staff on narrowed group of proposals</td>
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<td>Feb. – Mar. 2009</td>
<td>□ Topic selected and final proposal ready by March</td>
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<td>April – May 2009</td>
<td>□ Work with academic and other units to identify key individuals to participate&lt;br&gt; □ Begin research on implementation &amp; assessment of topic</td>
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<td>Summer 2009 through Fall 2010</td>
<td>□ Develop and write QEP&lt;br&gt; □ Work with academic and other units to plan for their role in implementation &amp; assessment&lt;br&gt; □ Continue research on implementation &amp; assessment of topic&lt;br&gt; □ Finalize writing of QEP and submit to SACS</td>
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<td>Spring 2011</td>
<td>□ On-site visit by SACS (QEP is a major focus of this)</td>
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<td>Fall 2011</td>
<td>□ Implementation &amp; assessment of QEP&lt;br&gt; □ Celebrate our Reaccreditation! ☺</td>
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**Note:** Please visit [http://qep.gmu.edu](http://qep.gmu.edu) for a more detailed and complete version of our timeline...  

*Think. Learn. Succeed.*
How can you contribute?

- Submit a topic proposal
- Provide feedback about our proposals and those that will be posted from the Mason community
- Participate in upcoming forums/events
- Share your ideas with your colleagues
- Visit our website

Think. Learn. Succeed.
Would you like to learn more?!

- Please visit [http://qep.gmu.edu](http://qep.gmu.edu)
- Email [qep@gmu.edu](mailto:qep@gmu.edu) if you have questions or ideas
- Contact a member of the QEP Planning Committee (see our website)