Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Planning Committee
Tuesday, October 6, 2009 - 11:00-1:00 p.m.


Ideas for Faculty Senate Presentation
- Show the blog to Faculty Senate as a space where they (and their colleagues and students) can leave feedback
  - Explain why they should care and how we’ve gotten to where we are for new members
    - State the topic, explain that specifics are still being developed – not nearly at final product yet
  - Prepare text that they can take back to their departments to share, along with the blog URL
  - Take flyers for talking points
  - Ask members to speak about the QEP at their departmental meetings & in their classes, encouraging their colleagues to do the same
  - Ask them for ideas about what the best way for feedback might be
  - Deadline for feedback: end of semester

Blog Feedback
- A place to answer specific questions re: what information we need; for example, what people are doing now in their departments & feedback from those experiences
- Home page
  - Change language to indicate they could leave feedback via email, but remove stigma that suggests they might feel uncomfortable
  - Blog should point to the website for more information and website should point to blog
  - State the topic, explain that it is still being developed and is not final yet
    - More information and updates can be found on website
    - Blog as space for collecting your ideas and feedback about topic
  - Set a deadline for feedback: end of semester
  - Use the ASHE book to give some core concepts on the topic and to enhance credibility
- White paper page
  - Remove the first question – too broad for the blog
  - Create some guidance for the links to the executive summary and white paper
    - Example: “Familiarize yourself with the executive summary or white paper…”
  - Create separate pages for each prompt
  - Reframe and then label prompts as specifically for students and faculty
  - New question for students: “Have you ever participated in scholarly or creative activities? What were your experiences?”
  - Same for faculty members – ask about personal experiences and lessons from those
- Soliciting feedback for the blog
  - Send invite to email addresses of those who commented last year
  - Send invite to folks who left their info on the last survey question
  - Send a blurb about the blog to Deirdre and others with access to student, faculty, and staff lists
QEP Conversations & Outreach

- Rachel spoke with faculty in her department and with students in her synthesis class (24 music students)
  - How do you define scholarship and creative activity?
    - Students were not sure how to answer this
    - Need to reframe for students so that it is more accessible to them
  - How might you be better engaged in the process of scholarship and creative activity from your first year on?
  - What could get you more excited about engaging in scholarly and creative activities?
    - Seniors may be the best target for info because they can reflect on their experiences
    - Ask Karen G. – any chance to add question or two to graduating senior survey?

- Tim spoke to 12 faculty members at COS meeting
- Mills mentioned QEP at CHSS department chairs and academic directors meeting
- Rose and University Life – will have presentations at staff meetings and all-directors meetings
  - Will send focus group invite to faculty advisor and student leader listservs
- Craig has talked to Library staff
  - Will set up a meeting of library liaisons who work more directly with faculty
    - Rick would like to join this conversation
  - Fenwick Renovation update
    - Documentation of floor plans submitted last week
    - Research commons on second floor
    - Want to bring in the Writing Center, the Center for Teaching Excellence, and LSS located near the liaison librarians to collaborate on student research
    - Space for the QEP (via Center for Teaching Excellence) in the research commons
    - How will this space support the QEP as we move forward?
    - Not an administrative space—will bring students and faculty together

Possible Focus Group and Other Targets

- Grad student focus group
  - Thursday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in early November for grad student focus group
  - Kim, Mills, Lynne, and Jennifer are generally available
- Student Government – has hour-long meetings every week
  - Paula will follow up on scheduling a date with this group
  - Committee for Academic Affairs meets at 4:30 on Tuesdays
    - We’ll do a focus group with this committee in early November
  - Student Senate meets on Thursdays
    - Could Academic Affairs group present about the QEP to the Student Senate?
- Connect with editors of Connect Mason and the Broadside
- Need to have a strategy to connect with transfer students
- RAs
- Senior faculty – who the newer faculty look up to; other informal departmental leaders
- Incoming and new faculty – most likely to be working with new students
- UAP mentors
  - Ask them to share ideas for what has worked well, what hasn’t, training for students, co-curricular events…
  - Would help us determine how to get other faculty members involved
  - This group could include people we know who have been involved in mentorship
• Department chairs
• Study abroad faculty members
  o Susan wants to be part of a focus group with folks from study abroad about global topics
• Term and adjunct faculty
  o Use list from Innovations conference for invitations
• Students involved with student-learning
  o Combine with social innovators group
  o Heather Hare may have names of students
  o Include Erek Perry and folks from First Year Center in this group as well?
• Faculty involved with Independent Study
  o Jennifer will contact Registrar about getting these lists

Ideas for Moving Forward…
• Creating themes around scholarship would encourage collaboration across the silos
  o Global, social entrepreneurship, etc.
• Will need to address and define terms
  o Will need to consider the term “service-learning” – perhaps replace with “community engagement”
    ▪ How can student scholarship be a part of this engagement process?
• Need to expand white paper to include things beyond Mason
• Need to pull in ideas from social innovators and entrepreneurs white paper
  o Look to blog
• Models for QEP projects
  o Will we be working on a CFP model with criteria by which proposals will be judged?
    ▪ Could encourage different themes and focuses for proposals
    ▪ There is accountability with this model
  o Funds that are open and available to Mason community vs. projects that are determined in advance
  o Want representation from across the units, but must be careful with giving out money
    ▪ Would need an oversight committee with broad faculty representation to look through the proposals
  o Texas Tech
    ▪ Dept had to demonstrate that over the past four years they had transformed teaching and learning – rewards for what you have done
    ▪ Turned into a proposal system
  o Proposals for what you will do vs. rewards for what you are doing/have done
    ▪ Might be able to do little bit of both
    ▪ Proposal model – different levels (student-led and faculty-led)
      ▪ Interdisciplinary collaborations
      ▪ If we privilege certain topics, we will need to have data to help justify our case
• Will need to think about ways to publicize what is already happening at Mason
  o Not only in disseminating the information, but also offering opportunities for reflection and analysis
• Different departments are in different places with their involvement in scholarly and creative activities
  o Transformation looks different in different units/departments – various stages of development and capacity
• How do we get students and faculty who are involved in scholarship to talk with each other?
• Look at Kennesaw State’s QEP – Get Global!
  o Link to QEP site: http://www.kennesaw.edu/getglobal/
  o Every faculty member had to commit to doing something under the QEP
  o We do not need to touch every faculty member with this, but there will be an impact on the curriculum

**Committee Action Items**
• Talk with about the QEP within your departments and your classes
• Where applicable, schedule a time for groups to whom you have access
• Focus groups happen before Thanksgiving – let’s get these on the calendar now
  o Send us contact information for the groups
  o We can help with room scheduling
  o We can coordinate to identify a co-facilitator from QEP planning group

Next meeting:
• Specific prompts for focus groups
• We’ll return to student learning outcomes

November meeting:
• Karen – NSSE data that is related to the QEP topic