Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Planning Committee
April 25, 2008—2:00-4:00 p.m.


QEP Plan:
• Five-year plan to enhance student learning that was developed with input from the entire university community.
• Specific measurable student learning outcomes and a specific assessment plan are critical components
• Plan must included needed budgetary support for success
• Resources: Learning Reconsidered and How People Learn

QEP Process:
• We need to decide the best approaches for soliciting community engagement and feedback
• Once a topic is decided, it will also be important to market and promote the topic broadly
• Discussion of potential topics with Associate Deans with undergraduate portfolios was cited as particularly important
• Discussed the importance of having parallel tracks for identifying topics and then evaluating them based on the criteria that we develop
• Other schools have allowed any member of the university community to submit short proposals → is this an idea we want to consider?
• Might be advantageous to think of our role as one of an Executive Search Committee
• Getting feedback
  o Through surveys
  o Focus groups/sessions
  o Faculty—10 minutes of class
• Source of data are the surveys and feedback re: strategic plan

QEP Topic Selection:
• Approach the topic as the train that is about to leave—the QEP follows
  o Anticipating future challenges, changes, and needs
• Topic cannot be one that we have developed as a core strength, but it ought to be something that we are doing well in pockets around the institution
• Consider what’s unique and different about Mason?
• The idea of developing criteria to evaluate potential topics was discussed and generally agreed on as important.
  o Criteria should be university-wide and effect all constituencies
    ▪ Review criteria and topics at the same time and get feedback on both—will help to work with time constraints
    ▪ Those topics should fit the criteria matter to the university as a whole
  o Possible criteria is that topic has significant impact on student learning and success
• Agreed to generate criteria for evaluating topics this summer
• Let’s consider how to use NSSE and exit survey data to ensure that results feed back to learning and pedagogy
  o What assessment information do we want to have?
  o How can we make the learning experience more meaningful?
• Concerns from data
  o Students don’t feel academically challenged
  o Faculty-student interaction outside the classroom
• New generation of students who are embedded in a more participatory culture - How should the institution respond?
  o Collaborative learning with technologies
  o Moving from culture of anecdote to a culture of evidence
• Transfer students are another population that we ought to consider with the plan
• Distance education came up as another issue the university is facing

Possible Topic Ideas
• Someone raised the issue of teaching for large classes (a growing concern); thus, course redesign might be a potential idea for consideration
• Another person raised the issue of general education and how to integrate across gen education classes to increase their value to student learning
• Mason’s diverse community and interest in global education might lead us to topic ideas, particularly with ¼ of our students having a different first language

Informing the Mason Community
• Publicize about the QEP and about the QEP committee and what they’re doing so that the community knows what’s going on
  o Will make everyone feel included
  o Inform the community about why this is important
  o Let folks know who to contact and that we’ll be working this summer
• Create talking points for Provost & President
• Send all-faculty announcement from Provost
• Put information/links to Provost and President website
• Maybe have one or two lines from President Merten at Commencement
• Need to develop QEP website for Mason – incorporate as button on main page
• Stakeholders
  o Deans and Directors
  o Associate Deans
  o CTE—Coordinating Circle and Advisory Council
  o Department Chairs
  o Adjunct Faculty
  o Students → Mason Ambassadors, Patriot Leaders, University Scholars, RAs, Provost dinner with student leaders
  o Faculty could take ten minutes of class to reach a broad range of students, which is more effective than focus groups
  o Need to touch all campuses