QEP STEERING COMMITTEE  
Thursday, November 13, 2008

Attending: Mary Bantell, David Billeaux, Kent Byus, Ann Degaish, David Grisé, Bridgette Hardin, Joseph Loon, Gerardo Moreno, Jim Needham, Robert Nelsen, Nancy Nelson, Chris Shupala, Blair Sterba-Boatwright, Susan Wolff-Murphy, Robert Wooster

Absent: Adolfo Benavides, Margaret Dechant, Mark Hartlaub, Amanda Hill, J. Carlos Huerta, Yolanda Keys, Courtney Lee, Frank Lucido, Erin Nuckols, Sarah Sutton

Guests: Mr. Victor Davila, Director, Go Centers, Title V Trio  
Dr. Paul Orser, Assoc Vice President For Planning & Effectiveness  
Dr. Gilda Ramirez, Director Of Student Services & College Finances

Presentations on Existing TAMUCC Programs:

1. Dr. Ramirez – Summer Bridge Programs  
   http://star.tamucc.edu
   GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs)  
   STAR (Students Training for Academic Readiness project)  
   Program works with six school district with students in 7th, 8th, 9th grades. This is the third year of the program, four more years of funding. The two 3-week summer bridge program consists of one week on-campus and a two-week leadership session at the school districts, directed by TAMUCC faculty.

   High School Summer Bridge Program  
   http://critical.tamucc.edu/studentwiki/GildaRamirez/HighSchoolSummerBridgeProgram2008
   Incoming 11th and 12th graders from Alice, West Oso, Mathis and Odem ISDs spend the month of July on-campus to experience a simulation of the first year learning community experience. Parents are invited to a final ceremony where students make presentations on their studies. Measuring success: Does short term intervention affect on academic year? A final test is given after the program and no significant change made on their scores. Success is found in ability to present at final ceremony. Follow ups have been made with Alice ISD students.

2. Victor Davila – Title V  
   Completing the Pipeline (CTP) - Transition/Retention Program  
   http://titlevtrio.tamucc.edu
   Serves first generation, Hispanic, students in most danger of not succeeding first year, transfer students from Del Mar College. Offer personal attention to aid students.

   GO Centers – CCISD, Flour Bluff ISD, West Oso ISD, Robstown ISD, Alice ISD  
   High school students in the college readiness programs or GO Centers, are identified right now as potential TAMUCC students. In the spring, CTP talks and engages with them getting them ready early.

3. Dr. Paul Orser – BCSSE Survey and Presentation
   See handout materials. At the end of the term, Orser plans to match data with actual performance in hopes to find a set of behaviors that correlates with academic success.  http://pie.tamucc.edu/
Discussions and comments on early planning with tutors, SIs, and TLC resources were made. Grisé shared his early planning strategies and how he measures success in his classroom.

Questions on the focus of the theme were brought up; are we taking a broader approach or tighter approach and how we can measure the success of the approach. Murphy expressed the need to narrow down our topics.

Nelsen commented that we can use 7 – 9 different measures of administrative outcomes in the QEP report such as GFW rates, probation rates, surveys, BCSSE data, and retention rates. Hardin has set up columns of administrative outcomes in the new weave.

Discussions on behavior and social programs and how that affects academics were made. Moreno mentioned that SIs and mentors focus on academics however the social integration happens as well. Wooster commented that a practical level to start this program is in the seminar classes. R. Nelsen mentioned approval has been made to address this integration but this does not need to come from the QEP. QEP budget cannot support this. QEP cannot do what we should be already doing. Byus commented on using QEP to define the most important learning outcome.

R. Nelsen addressed the fact that we need to develop an electronic bridge program for students and parents can work. We need to think of a bridge program in a different way and adjust SIs program. We need to learn our interventions first and then decide on the learning outcomes.

Discussions were made on the non-traditional students at TAMUCC. Programs need to be planned differently to accommodate these students. QEP needs to have maximum flexibility to get to the students.

Byus reported on the student focus group:
Students look forward to the first year experience to have independence, but in reality, the university puts many constraints on choices. The mentors or leaders who gave pointers or spent additional time, made a difference to the student. There is so much information on support services and students weren’t exposed to early enough. Students do not like restricted class schedule – learning communities. Del Mar transfer students felt left out and lost. They enjoy the school spirit and social aspects. Lee is holding another focus group on Monday, November 17.

Next meeting: November 20, 2:30-4:30, Library Conference Room 208.

Minutes submitted by: Holly Lazenby
Approved by Susan Wolff-Murphy for submission to Committee