Present: Mary Bantell, Adolfo Benavidez, David Billeaux, Kent Byus, Ann Degaish, David Grisé, Bridgette Hardin, Mark Hartlaub, Carlos Huerta, Yolanda Keys, Courtney Lee, Sarah Lumpkins, Gerry Moreno, Peter Moore, Jim Needham, Susan Wolff Murphy

Minutes from June 2, 2009 and August 19, 2009 were approved.

Review Gerald Lord’s recommendations:
- The communities of practice & addressing barrier courses is seen as data driven.
- Hardin mentioned that student surveys show a decline in satisfaction in their academic experience, so a focus on the classroom experience could be timely.
- Resources need to be committed & not just tacked onto what people are already doing, staff need to be hired to do this work.
- Professional development of faculty needs to be more clearly delineated, such as with a calendar and/or schedule.
- Some teaching & learning scholarship cuts across disciplines. There needs to be a mechanism for that.
- Math needs to have a meeting to clearly express to faculty commitment to the QEP plans for professional development & curriculum changes.

Discussion from last meeting: How to simplify?
- Remove SI (b/c CASA receiving support from Title V) – don’t need to assess for QEP
- Consider “curriculum redesign” really a description/requirement of the assessment plan of faculty development & student learning. This is an end result of what the program is trying to do.
- Remove “WAVE Learning Communities” – this will be done within the Core Curriculum Program – don’t need to assess for QEP

Revised Implementation Timeline (Handout):
- Moved timelines back
- Break up implementations, to easily conduct assessment and obtain our goals with the lack of resources
- Dr. Peter Moore is the first official Communities of Practice (COP) FYI Team Leader for History. Starting this fall, he has begun the discussion phase and next year will pilot, then revise plans the next year, then elect a new FYI Team Leader the next year.
- Math, Reading, Political Science and Biology will have staggered beginnings
- Bridge: paperwork begun for hiring a Program Coordinator for the WAVE Bridge. This person will also offer administrative support to the FYI office.
- Minimize Bridge in first few years of implementation to Convocation only. This will give students and WAVE Learning Communities faculty an official beginning. Then add other events as years go on.
- A concern was made regarding recognition in annual evaluations by Deans. Will the Provost/President support the faculty members serving on the FYI committee and relate to their Deans that their role on the FYI committee is very important. S. Murphy is now devoted to the FYI for 50% of her work effort as the FYI Director. She will need assistance from some folks with assessment, but the QEP Steering Committee will cease once the FYI Implementation Plan begins.
Concerns were made regarding obtaining the program’s original outcomes with simplifying the FYI plan.

This is a plan that focuses on faculty development. Student learning will improve due to helping faculty teach more effectively.

All actions must be tied to student improvement. We need to present the plan in a way that they are no questions as to where are the students?

The QEP must be data driven with the supporting research. Our data is on barrier courses. We cannot abandon the COP.

This is a plan; modifications can be made as we go along.

Textbooks guarantee cannot be controlled, therefore we cannot assess this.

Assessment Plan proposed in the Lord report was discussed. The last goal “improve student engagement” should be removed, since our implementation plans do not directly support engagement. Approved by committee.

New Student Orientation Discussion

- CASA mentors are calling new students this fall as a post-orientation follow-up. Students are confused and overwhelmed. FYI can include this in the plan without exhausting resources, since CASA is already doing this.
- Different experiences were shared and suggestions were offered.
- Perhaps FYI can have podcasts online or online modules to assist with orientation.
- C. Lee will ask her first-year ‘step’ students if an online orientation would help them and what would be most effective.

Mission Statement Discussion

- Needs to be more student-focused, not to leave out a student population (at-risk, honor students).
  Mission statement can be holistic, the plan is more detailed.
- Needs to be in simple terms that the campus community will remember and understand.
- After much discussion asking if the mission statement really supports our plan, the committee came up with:

**Mission Statement**

Through its First-Year Islanders (FYI) plan, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will transform the academic experience of its first-year students by supporting the underprepared to prepare, encouraging the prepared to advance, and inspiring the advanced to excel.

The First-Year Islanders program will improve the learning experience of all first-year students by:

- Transitioning first-year students to college learning through the WAVE bridge experience;
- Providing faculty development focused on first-year students; and
- Refreshing the content and teaching methods of first-year courses.

FYI Plan: List of Actions:

1. Faculty Development
2. Bridge
3. Improving instruction

December 2009 – send QEP report to SACS
Next meeting: Thursday, September 24, 2 – 4 p.m., Bay Hall 224