The meeting was called to order.

**Presentations of Proposed Topics** – Please refer to your electronic copies for specifics

**Presentation # 1: Suzzette Chopin**
Center for Undergraduate Excellence and Engagement (CUEE)

**Goal: Campus Community Engagement**
CUEE would serve as a conduit between the campus community and the students. CUEE would be the center that refers students to existing independent areas such as: advisors, student services, etc. CUEE would promote strong interaction with the campus to the students that currently are not being reached.

**Goal: Civic Engagement**
CUEE would set up outreach projects with K-12 schools to involve our students with the civic community. Student - community involvement would only enhance job placement for our students once they receive their degree.

**Goal: Professional Development**
CUEE would offer free preparatory courses for testing such as: LSAT, MCAT, GRE, etc. Professional school application assistance would also be available. Professional development should become just as important to the students as course work.

The CUEE would focus on undergraduate students beginning with their very first semester with freshman students having a one on one mentor. Participation in CUEE would be voluntary and open to all students. The students that interact with CUEE will show better, measurable learning outcomes than those who do not participate.

**Presentation # 2: Marsha Grace**
Teaching Enhancement Fund

The premise of this proposal is to provide faculty with the teaching materials that would enhance student learning.

Justification: If a research enhancement fund is appropriate for the University, why not instill a teaching enhancement fund?
Summary of (QEP) Topic Recommendation Committee meeting of April 2, 2008 Tejas 106 C, 3:00 – 5:00

Presentation # 3: Susan Wolff Murphy
The First Year Experience Core Curriculum (UCCP) BEAMS Proposal
Bringing Engagement and Attainment to Minority Students (BEAMS) was a national endeavor. BEAMS was also an unfunded mandate that received little support and was basically forgotten.

Data to support this proposal already exists. Our students that work more than twenty hours a week is double that of the Systems and the national average of students working the same hours.

First semester grades are a major predictor of whether students will return for their next semester. Retention is falling while academic probation is rapidly increasing.

This proposal would deliberately focus on multicultural students, follow, the mission of the University and enhance Momentum 2015. Senior faculty members would serve as, or along with, seminar leaders to provide faculty mentors to first year students.

Presentation # 4: Joseph Loon
Student Learning Paradigm Using Cutting Edge Technology
Aspect:
Adopting a universal theme throughout all courses would provide real world experience for our students.

Aspect:
We are a teaching institution that should strive to be a learning institution.

Aspect
Providing GIS for every student would provide data that can be mapped. GIS is free to all online.

HRI is a strong, excellent research center located right here on campus. The Gulf of Mexico is an amazing, living laboratory that is also located here. A University theme of sustainability development would prepare students for lifelong learning and increase student responsibility for participation in the global community.

This topic may only be proposed to students in the college of Science and Technology which would prevent the requirement of every course to discuss or prove sustainability.
Presentation # 5: Sarah Sutton  
Information Literacy Across the Curriculum

Library instruction reaches about 13% of our students. That percentage is unacceptable. This proposal would provide a liaison to the library for each college. Library literacy would be easily taught, take shape from existing library programs could easily be included in undergraduate research and would provide lifelong learning to our students. Low resources would be required to implement library literacy as the QEP topic.

Our library was built in the 1970s to serve 5,000 students. With our current enrollment we show a deficit of 44,600 square feet for the student to library ratio. A student on the committee stated that the administration needs to invest in the library as an essential element of the University. In this student’s opinion, the library, as it is now, is not functional or inviting.

A committee member suggested that the date collected for the 13% (see above) may not be an actual reflection of student usage of the library. It was also suggested that the data collected for this presentation be changed in to bar graph format to improve data clarification.

Another committee member stated that, “… students don’t research. They google.” It was stated that 60% of students google while 40% use the online library. This alone results in a tremendous increase in plagiarisms.

Upon assessment of this proposal students would have a measurable understanding of copy write and plagiarism.

General:
Dr. Billeaux charged the committee to consider all proposals, see if there is a common, preferred theme and try to find any problem issues that would need to be addressed. The committee members were asked to identify themes, narrow the options and decide on their first and second choice of the proposed topics. Votes will be conducted at the next meeting.