QEP Topic Selection Committee Meeting Minutes  
Friday, May 2, 2008  
2:00 p.m., S&T-101

Present:

David Billeaux   Jacqueline Hamilton  
Mary Bantell   Yolanda Keys  
Matt Baysden   Eve Layman  
Adolfo Benavides   Joseph Loon  
Kent Byus   Susan Murphy  
Eliot Chenaux   Gale Stuart  

The meeting was called to order by David Billeaux at 2:05 p.m. Dr. Billeaux discussed the results of the group’s vote two weeks before and although the outcome showed overwhelming support for the First Year Experience to be the topic, it was not clear from the vote which theme the group supported. Votes for themes were practically tied for BEAMS, Information Literacy, and Sustainability. Dr. Billeaux’s purpose in calling the meeting was to formally present to the group options for the way forward and have the group decide on what it will do. On the one hand, the group had completed its charge by coming up with the topic of the First Year Experience. However, the group was not unified on a recommendation for a particular sub-theme. Also, due to concerns raised by Adolfo Benavides at the last meeting about SACS visiting teams requiring more broad and transparent involvement of constituent groups in the topic selection process than this committee had pursued, the question arises as to whether this committee should make a recommendation to the Provost about how to proceed with achieving a broader base of support. It was important for the group to determine just what kind of recommendation it wants to make and what form the recommendation should take.

A motion was made by Eliot Chenaux to move forward with a recommendation for the original topic of the first year experience with the theme of sustainability. The motion was seconded by Kent Byus.

Discussion ensued about the original charge of the group and what role the committee should take in recommending a particular theme to the Provost and President. Dave Billeaux felt the group represented at this meeting was too small to make a decision on which theme should go forward and if the group wanted to go select a particular theme, this should be communicated to the entire committee for a vote.

After much discussion, the group reached consensus that it was not appropriate to recommend to the Provost any particular theme because it might limit the next QEP committee’s ability to create an effective plan, but that this committee should recommend at minimum that some sort of theme should be selected from the following three: BEAMS, Information Literacy, and Sustainability. Dr. Billeaux asked that each of the three groups who submitted proposals for BEAMS, Information Literacy, and Sustainability write one or two concise paragraphs describing their theme so that these short descriptors could be included in a document that goes
forward to the Provost and to next committee. Kent Byus and Joe Loon volunteered to craft an email to the committee that summarizes this committee’s decision and recommendation. These projects need to be completed by the end of May.

David Billeaux mentioned that further validation of which theme to pursue from larger groups of faculty, alumni, and students will go forward this summer. The committee that puts the QEP together will benefit from more broad-based feedback. Then David Billeaux disbanded the group because their charge had been acquitted.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.