1-14-11
SACS Working Group Meeting

Present: Jane Fernandes, Mary Lynn Manns, Lisa Friedenberg, Amy Lanou, Bruce Larson and Annis Lytle

Bruce said Happy New Year to the group and thanked everyone for coming and stated that he looks forward to working with everyone this year.

Bruce gave the group two handouts:
1. UNCA SACS Reaffirmation Report Style Guide
2. SACS Meetings Schedule for Spring 2011

The report style sheet was adapted from Western Carolina University in light of a similar sheet developed by Winthrop University by Eileen Crowe and Annis Lytle.

Mary Lynn reported on the QEP and gave the group one handout:
1. QEP items for SACS Working Group on 1/14/11

Mary Lynn went over the handout in detail, commenting on each of items (a-i). She asked that the group look over the QEP website that has been updated with Survey #3. She stated that an Email will be sent to Faculty, Staff and Students with the survey.

Jane stated that a concise statement of the QEP topic needs to be sent to the SACS Vice President Cheryl Cardell by the end of January.

Amy, Lisa and Mary Lynn went over the three ideas developed from the QEP Meeting on December 17 and then went over the ideas developed from the January 6 meeting and the idea that Amy had over the break.

1. Goal is to increase participation in engaged learning projects—living learning communities, undergraduate research, intergenerational/geographical support groups, service learning, creative projects with community engagement
2. Offer faculty opportunities to revise Diversity Intensive courses or create DI courses that have engaged learning components. Impetus to create broader DI offerings—offer an opportunity to submit an experience through a DI course
3. Start with the idea of formalizing the notion that students do some kind of engaged learning. Could make choices about what type of engaged learning they participated in. Formalize definitions for engaged learning experiences—UGR, service learning, other experiences or even variations on these experiences

Lisa talked about the exact meaning of engaged learning and the availability of the necessary-data on UGR should that be the specific type of engaged learning examined. Mary Lynn stated that Susan Reiser is looking at the research on engaged learning and Jane stated that we have some data on the learning outcomes for UGR from the Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium, and we will have more in May.
Mary Lynn stated that she contacted Joseph Berryhill about service learning and the possibility of combining it with engaged learning. He will be discussing this and related matters with the QEP team. Jane stated that she was not sure if the Key Center for Community Citizenship and Service Learning has assessment data and that we need the data to base the QEP plan on. Archer Gravely has some numbers. Lisa stated that Joseph Berryhill should be used for service learning and that Mary Harvey should be used for UGR.

Jane liked all ideas and suggested using only one idea to develop and grow over the next 5 years. Jane stated that she must check the topic that is picked. Focus on one topic for the QEP (UGR, Service Learning, Learning Communities, and Study Abroad)

Mary Lynn and Amy both have reflection papers that could be helpful for the assessment of service learning.

Mary Lynn will give a QEP report at the faculty meeting, department chairs and program directors meeting and the faculty senate meeting. At a later time the QEP team will engage these groups with specific questions to help refine the QEP topic.