SACS Working Group Meeting

Present: Jane Fernandes, Mary Lynn Manns, Lisa Friedenberg, Bruce Larson, Nancy Yeager, Jessica Dunsmore, and Annis Lytle

Bruce welcomed everyone and introduced Jessica Dunsmore, the new Director of Institutional Effectiveness.

Jane said that Nancy will write CS 3.9.1 and Dr. Haggard will write FR 4.5; Louis Toms should be informed of this change. Nancy stated that she is revising the Public Safety draft and it will be ready soon. Jane noted that Jessica, who is reviewing all of the compliance drafts, should submit her feedback to her, Lisa, and Bruce.

Bruce distributed a copy of an email on the 2011 Assessment Institute Call for Proposals to be held in Indianapolis from October 30 – November 1, 2011 for general information.

Mary Lynn provided an update on the QEP. She distributed a document titled “UNC Asheville Campus Summary: QEP project work-to-date (2/22/11).” She stated that the QEP focus groups have started and that two have been held.

- The Chancellor’s Staff Advisory Council (CSAC) focus group went great. The group had great ideas, was excited about the QEP, and had lots of ideas and comments. They were excited about faculty, staff, and students working together.
- The focus group with the Provost’s Cabinet went well, too. As a result of comments, the Campus Summary Living Document was created. Mary Lynn stressed that this is a “living document,” subject to continual revision in order to keep the campus posted on the latest information about the QEP. She will share this document with the QEP Leadership Team at their next meeting on 2/24/11.

Lisa stated that this document clarifies a number of things, including the relationship of the QEP to Undergraduate Research. Much discussion ensued about the word ‘engaged’ and the fact that it means different things to different people.

Jessica stated that SACS looks at assessment data and the mission of the university, and that Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) data could be used. Lisa and Jane stated that our students did well on writing skills and not so well on critical thinking. Lisa has the complete CLA report and will share it with Mary Lynn and Amy. The CLA data provides a basis for developing a QEP in light of the student learning outcomes we want to enhance. The Association of American Colleges and Universities has a variety of rubrics that can be used to assess such things as those included in SLO 1. Lisa is familiar with many of these rubrics.

Nancy asked if participation in the QEP will be required. It is the understanding of all concerned that, due to resource considerations, participation in the QEP will be voluntary. Mary Lynn
stressed that the basic idea is to start small and expand the QEP over time. UNC Asheville will report on the QEP in its Fifth-Year Interim Report to SACS (2017).

The diagram “Students as Makers of Knowledge thru Engaged Learning Experiences” was discussed and some suggestions were made. Through this discussion the importance of narrowing SLO 1 into one or two assessable elements was stressed. This will be an important task for the QEP Leadership Team when it meets on 2/24/11.

Mary Lynn showed the latest changes made by the marketing students to the promotion items (buttons, stickers, table tents, face book page and flyers). The students have been working hard. Some additional suggestions were made and some of the items will now be printed, with Annis taking the lead on the printing.

It being 2:30 pm, the meeting adjourned.