3-18-11

SACS Working Group Meeting

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

Absent: Jane Fernandes (UPC Meeting)

Bruce welcomed everyone and updated the group on the SACS Reaffirmation Update Number Two for UNC Asheville for the Board of Trustees upcoming meeting.

Bruce will be away March 29-31 observing a SACS on-site visit. Mary Lynn agreed to chair the SACS Executive meeting in his absence on March 29 from 4:30 until 5:30 pm.

Mary Lynn updated the group on the QEP Project. She provided two handouts:

- UNC Asheville Campus Summary: QEP project work-to-date dated 3/15/11
- Quality Enhancement Plan Project Dimensions/Decision Points Draft dated 3/17/11

The Project Draft was developed by Amy and Mary Lynn with input from Lisa and Jessica. Concerns that Mary Lynn has are: classes within the QEP, student incentives, and clusters of three classes. Prior to today, Mary Lynn and Amy talked with Jane, Kim Brown, and Ed Katz about the QEP Project Draft. The Draft will be discussed with the QEP Leadership Team on Thursday, March 14th.

Phase 1 would start with at least 3 classes grouped in clusters and build over time. The idea is to start with a small group of faculty and students. Student Affairs might be involved.

Lisa suggested that we start a cluster designed to use the AAC&U rubrics. After considerable discussion about clusters, it was concluded that a new cluster with the theme cultural and global understanding would comprehensively integrate the ideas expressed by the university community.

In looking at the QEP Project Draft, with the additional understanding about cultural and global understanding, it was thought that the project would be acceptable to SACS and might be a good document to send to SACS Vice President Cheryl Cardell for feedback, although some additional background would be needed.

Considerable discussion of Baseline Assessment took place. Ideally, such an assessment would take place before attending UNC Asheville, the summer being the most obvious time for newly admitted fall students; Nancy will explore this with Dr. Haggard. The CLA, although not ideal, could be worked with.
Mary Lynn discussed the name of the QEP project. She is looking for an alternative to the acronym IAIR (inquiry-action-impact-reflection) that she has been using. She is open to suggestions.

A new faculty group is about to be formed to discuss curricular revision at UNC Asheville in light of current and prospective financial resources for the university. It was clearly expressed that regardless of curricular revisions, the cluster of courses would provide a meaningful educational opportunity for participating students.

Bruce mentioned that former Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Larry Wilson has been developing a type of student recognition based upon completion of a coordinated set of courses. Such a concept might lend itself to grant funding. Jessica noted that having a grant would greatly support the project and that a QEP project involving cultural and global understanding would be especially attractive.

It being 10:00 am, the meeting adjourned.