4-1-11

SACS Working Group Meeting

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

Absent: Amy Lanou (Conference)

Handouts:

- SACS Observer Visit: Things Noticed and Conclusions Drawn by Bruce Larson
- QEP Update: UNC Asheville’s Outline for the Quality Enhancement Plan dated 3/25/11

Bruce reviewed and commented upon his notes from the SACS on-site he observed earlier in the week. He will forward to Mary Lynn some more detailed notes on the QEP. In addition he will go through his notes and indicate what activities need to be focused on in the near future.

It was noted that October might be the best time to invite Dr. Gloria Raines to visit UNC Asheville. Lisa suggested that Dr. Jeff Baker of Converse College might be considered as a SACS QEP Evaluator.

Mary Lynn updated the group on the QEP Project.

The QEP Update: UNC Asheville’s Outline for the Quality Enhancement Plan dated 3/25/11 will be sent to SACS Vice President Cheryl Cardell.

Mary Lynn encouraged the group to memorize the current “elevator pitch” for our QEP, so when someone asks what the QEP is about, we can respond: The QEP will provide students with opportunities to enhance their critical thinking and written communication skills through inquiry-action-impact-reflection (IAIR) experiences.

At the next QEP Leadership Team meeting (April 7th), the members will work on refining the definitions for the four words in the IAIR model as well as “global and cultural understanding.”

IAIR is our working acronym. Mary Lynn suggested having a contest over the summer that would encourage faculty to devise a new acronym and tagline for our QEP—it would also help with getting the word out and get the faculty more excited and involved in the QEP. Mary Lynn suggested the contest could run for two or three months—it could be announced at the May faculty meeting and the winner could be announced at the beginning of the school year meeting in August.

Mary Lynn stated that most of the QEPs she has read focus on one outcome. She recommended that we might wish to focus on critical thinking at an early stage of the project (phase one), with the possible future inclusion of written communication in a later phase. All four elements in SLO#1 would still be covered in the QEP plan we have developed.
Mary Lynn will be contacting the QEP director at the University of Louisville to inquire about the relationship of a critical thinking outcome to a written communication outcome. She will also learn more about attending the upcoming May conference on critical thinking at the University of Louisville.

It being 10:30 am, the meeting adjourned.