

# Quality Enhancement Plan Update

Jan. 5, 2009

## What is a QEP?

From the SACS Handbook for Reaffirmation of Accreditation:

*Core Requirement 2.12: The institution has developed an acceptable Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that (1) includes a broad-based institutional process identifying key issues emerging from institutional assessment, (2) focuses on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution, (3) demonstrates institutional capability for the initiation, implementation, and completion of the QEP, (4) includes broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies in the development and proposed implementation of the QEP, and (5) identifies goals and a plan to assess their achievement.*

## Note from the SACS Annual Meeting:

Since the QEP is currently a core requirement, recommendations made with respect to the QEP count towards sanctions. This was not the intent of the requirement, and SACS is working to make modifications, but the modifications will become effective with the Class of 2011.

## What have we done?

- QEP information is posted on the Tarleton SACS website: [www.tarleton.edu/~sacs](http://www.tarleton.edu/~sacs)
- Fall 07 – Spring 08: Conducted a survey of each of the following constituents: Faculty, Staff, Students
- Summer 08 – Sept. 08: Compiled the survey results into a set of potential topic areas which were then refined by the committee into the following areas:
  - Demonstrate Leadership Qualities
  - Ethical Decision Making
  - Service Learning
  - Spoken Communication
  - Student Engagement
  - Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities
  - Written Communications
- Sept. 08: The committee developed the following set of pointed questions to be applied to each refined topic area in a town hall and online forum setting:
  - General comments on the topic
  - What does the phrase <insert topic area> mean to you?
  - How would students be different if <insert topic area> was the QEP?
  - What initiative(s) could address <insert topic area> as a QEP?
  - How would students in your department/majors be impacted by <insert topic area> as a QEP?
  - How would we recognize success of <insert topic area> as a QEP?

The purpose of these questions was to gather ideas regarding implementation, impact, and assessment of the QEP topic. It also served to bolster awareness and involvement by the constituents.

- Oct. 08: Input on the refined areas was gathered using SharePoint for online forums and using College Town Halls, Staff Council discussions, and Student Government discussions for face-to-face interaction.
- Nov. 08: The compiled Town Hall and discussion inputs were presented to the QEP committee. Committee members were then tasked with independently digesting the material and presenting proposed topics to the committee.
- Dec. 08: The compiled proposed QEP topics, including those submitted from outside the committee, were presented to the committee for discussion and further narrowing. The outcome of this discussion was "Creating Curricular Connections...". This is currently

being focused; connecting to the real world? Connecting seemingly unrelated curricular components such as math and literature?

### **What is our plan?**

- Within the next 1-2 weeks: complete the final refinement.
- Announce the QEP topic to the faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Target date ~ Jan. 15
- Divide the components of the QEP document development amongst the committee with regular status meetings. Following the recently updated SACS QEP Handbook (<http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/081705/QEP%20Handbook.pdf>) this includes:
  - Defining the Student Learning Outcomes; know, do, value
  - Research best practices – literature survey, excellence in teaching showcase?
  - Identify actions to be implemented and the associated support
  - Establish the timeline for implementation; baseline, phases, etc.
  - Describe the infrastructure for implementation and continuation of the QEP (i.e. QEP Project Management); who does what (including credentials), monitoring budget and timeline; modifications; how are these people compensated?
  - Identify the necessary resources: estimating the costs of the physical and human resources needed to develop, implement, and sustain the QEP
  - Assessing success with the QEP
- By Sept. 2009 – have a draft QEP to provide to SACS for a preliminary review