

Quality Enhancement Plan Update

Sept. 22, 2008

What is a QEP?

From the SACS Handbook for Reaffirmation of Accreditation:

“The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is the component of the accreditation process that reflects and affirms the commitment of the Commission on Colleges to the enhancement of the quality of higher education and to the proposition that student learning is at the heart of the mission of all institutions of higher learning. By definition, the QEP describes a carefully designed course of action that addresses a well-defined and focused topic or issue related to enhancing student learning. The QEP should be embedded within the institution’s ongoing integrated institution-wide planning and evaluation process and may very well evolve from this existing process or from other processes related to the institution’s internal reaffirmation review.”

What have we done?

- QEP information is posted on the Tarleton SACS website: www.tarleton.edu/~sacs
- Conducted a survey of each of the following constituents: Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni (still in progress)
 - The surveys gathered information such as the importance of various skills (based on the university core competencies), student engagement in enrichment and success initiatives, as well as the opportunity to propose other topics where student learning is impacted.
 - Survey results are available by request
- 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
- The committee developed the following set of pointed questions to be applied to each refined topic area:
 - 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 is to gather ideas regarding implementation, impact, and assessment of the QEP topic. It will also serve to bolster awareness and involvement by the constituents.
- Input will be gathered over the next few weeks using SharePoint as a tool to conduct online forums as well as through Town Halls sponsored by Senate, Staff Council discussions, and Student Government discussions.
 - <http://sharepoint01.tarleton.edu>

What is our plan?

- For the next few weeks:
 - Conduct faculty forums via SharePoint and Town Halls asking the “pointed questions” for each of the final “potential topics”

- During October thru mid-November:
 - Ask the committee to prepared proposals based on data from the SharePoint discussions, Town Halls, etc.; this may be combinations of topics or single topics; the proposal should answer the pointed questions.
 - Two early drafts have been submitted: Service learning, Undergraduate research
- Mid-November through Mid-January
 - The committee will then refine, combine, edit, and select a proposal for a topic area.
- Spring semester
 - Refine selected proposal by refining or developing implementation initiatives,
 - develop and implement a marketing campaign,
 - integrate plan into the university budget, processes, etc.
- By Sept. 1, 2009 – have a draft QEP to provide to SACS for a preliminary review