

Minutes of SRSU, Alpine, QEP meeting October 16, 2006 at 4:00pm.

The meeting was called to order by Barney Nelson in ACR 204 with committee members from RGC attending via polycom teleconferencing.

Members present: Ericsson, Kinucan, Nuñez, Saka, Ritzi, Martin, Allison, Schwab, Sager, Green, Hunter, Klein, Grant, Kuentler, Powell, Romero, Bradley, Dutchover, Harris, Crane, Roman, Urquidez, Garza, Polanco, Neugebauer, Pritchard, Cox, Morgan, Cockrum, Bassham, Case, Sample (Letitia Wetterauer was also present to assist Nelson with technology)

Members absent: Fairlie, Summerlin, Rodriguez, Clifton, Garcia, Williams, Martinez, Ward, Gallego, Eidson (Nelson will meet with each of these ASP)

Charge: Sul Ross State University President, R. Vic Morgan, explained the new Commission on Colleges system of reaffirmation to both committees. Instead of a huge document answering hundreds of “must” statements, we now collect documentation for compliance on-line. A small committee, consisting mostly of those responsible for compliance, assembles all documentation except for Core Requirement 2.12: “The institution has developed an acceptable Quality Enhancement Plan and demonstrates that the plan is part of an ongoing planning and evaluation process.” Morgan emphasized the importance of choosing the QEP from broad-based input. He explained that our committee would initially be responsible for brainstorming and collecting ideas, then for narrowing and developing two or three ideas, and then for selecting a final goal. After selection, the committee will be responsible for developing that goal into a workable plan.

SACS Process: Sul Ross State University Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dave Cockrum, reiterated Morgan’s charge and explained the process of off-site and on-site evaluations. He stressed that if the visiting SACS evaluators are told that the QEP was chosen by Morgan or Cockrum, we will not pass. The QEP must be chosen and designed by those who will be implementing it.

Introduction to QEP: The Alpine campus then disconnected from the RGC campuses. Dr. Sarah Moreman took over her committee meeting, while Nelson took over in Alpine. Nelson presented a PowerPoint program explaining the process involved in brainstorming, choosing, and developing a QEP, and handed out a list of the committee members as well as brief guidelines for committee members to use as they solicit ideas from colleagues. A few clarifications and further assignments were made to volunteers: Clifton is covering Campus Activities, Career Services, Residential Living, Sign Language, and Testing; Ritzi will cover the Powell Herbarium and Title V/Science; Schwab will cover Recruiting and Upward Bound, Kinucan will cover SAWC Research, Saka will cover Museum of the Big Bend; and Dutchover will cover Controller.

Q & A: A few questions were fielded by Morgan and Cockrum, and Morgan then excused himself and explained that he would probably not attend any further meetings.

Discussion: The group then brainstormed ideas to help get their creative juices flowing. The list included:

- Enhancing student responsibility
- Increasing student usage of services already available
- Critical thinking
- Technology/computer skills across the curriculum
- Writing skills
- Math, with an emphasis on practical applications
- Connecting classes with real-world examples
- Reading comprehension
- Career choice and employment opportunities
- Enhancing advising
- Outreach to area high schools (some are already in place like Gear Up and Upward Bound)
- Citizenship and ethics
- Student engagement

During this discussion, several people also volunteered good ideas for improving classroom learning situations. Nelson urged everyone to start keeping a list of learning techniques that work for them because at some point we will also need to develop the QEP and will need those good ideas. The suggestion was also made to look at some of our assessment data in order to find serious problems to work on.

In closing: Nelson urged the group to keep their discussions with colleagues positive and to feel free to solicit ideas from anyone they came in contact with: family, students, friends, etc. The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.