

**QEP Meeting Minutes**  
September 15, 2005, 9:00-10:30 a.m.  
JCD Conference Room

Present: Sara Adams, Mike Dean, Jeff Florea, Greg Jewell, Elyssa Hurst, Daniel Nance, John Lowbridge, David Schuermer, Linda Winstead, Mary Werner, Beth Moore and Beth West

The committee set the next meeting day. It is Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in Rm. 219 JHG.

David discussed the Craig Nelson meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. He asked committee members for input about the goal we hoped Mr. Nelson could meet. Goals mentioned were:

- To learn how to create interest in critical thinking teaching
- To have him talk about practical applications of critical thinking
- To have him discuss how faculty can teach less and students learn more
- To have him discuss how to facilitate knowledge inquiry for students

Marlena suggested that he Nelson do a short session w/all faculty and an afternoon session with Science faculty and/or specific disciplines.

John asked that Nelson use relevant case studies oriented to community colleges.

David shared information/correspondence with SACS liaison Mike Johnson.

David and Greg will be meeting with the following to discuss QEP topic:

1. Tech faculty—Wednesday, Sept. 21, 3-4 p.m.
2. DaVinci group—12:00 today
3. Student Support Services group—no date mentioned
4. Nursing Faculty—next week
5. Allied Health Faculty—next week

David led a discussion about the asynchronous recursive feedback loop strategy. Greg will speak to this at the faculty meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The assessment group has been compiling a list of assessment instruments, researching and reading to determine the most effective instruments.

Greg highlighted the LCQ disposition inventory. The committee felt that the skills assessment is what we would be most interested in for our purpose.

Also, members felt the CAAP test could be used for assessment. John Lowbridge voiced concern that the Science test of the CAAP is questionable for incoming students, but the critical thinking part should be appropriate.

Next, David identified some key questions:

1. Can we administer this test individually?

Marlena mentioned that if incoming students have acceptable ACT scores, they would not have to take the COMPASS and this could be a problem.

Greg added that this test would have to be administered to all incoming students.

Marlena suggested that the Master Advisors could administer the test in their first Session with new students. Also, she felt an on-line version would be best.

Greg said he would look into this.

2. Would Master Advisors have to be certified? Yes.

David or Greg will check into this.

John Lowbridge suggested that we need to correlate between disciplines what we mean by critical thinking skills.

David added that inquiry skills and said we need to have a plan and agree on what we are trying to teach and how to assess it.

Greg stated, and there was general agreement, that when SACS comes we need to have more than one way to assess since they probably won't be satisfied with just the CAAP test because they need to know that critical thinking is taking place in all disciplines.

Marlena responded stating that critical thinking is addressed in her syllabus under the curriculum competency area. Her syllabus gives examples of how this is assessed in her class.

David suggested that having faculty address it in their syllabus would indicate to SACS that a reasonable attempt is being made to address critical thinking. He expressed concern, however, that gen ed competencies are big "pie in the sky" statements. He suggested that we needed more focus on specific student behaviors we are looking for and not focus so much on the lofty rhetoric.

Mike brought up the fact that critical thinking is not currently worded as one of the gen ed competencies. He added, however, that this would be changing. Marlena added that although the new gen ed competencies haven't been formally approved, it was not because there was disagreement on the competencies; rather, discussion was still continuing on what courses would be accepted for gen ed

Marlena reported on best practices committee and said they are still gathering materials and still have a plan.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:40 a.m.