

ACC Meeting Name: Achieving Excellence Committee

Minutes

Meeting Date: October 17, 2008

Time: 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Location: HBC, Room 301

Chair: Soon Merz

Members Present: D'Maris Allen-Mierl, David Borden, Steve Clary, Sandy Gaskin, Mike McCarthy, Soon Merz, Nancy Miller, Theresa Moore, Caryn Newburger, Martha Perez, Soon Merz, Charles Quinn, C. Jason Vidrine, Roslyn Wallace, Kathy Walton and Chris Rosales.

Absent: Sheila Ammons, Kathleen Christensen, Zach Corbell, Lyman Grant, Norma Jacobs, Ron Johns, Virginia Lawrence, Mike Midgley, Kyle Pierce, Margaret Reid, Julie Wauchope, and Diane Whitley-Bogard.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome

Presenter: Soon Merz

Discussion: Soon welcomed everyone to the AEC meeting.

Decisions: None

Follow Up Items and Responsible person: None

Agenda Item 2: Content of U-LEAD Assessment Plans

Presenter: Mike McCarthy

Discussion: Soon recalled that one AEC functions include review of the effectiveness of assessment instruments/tools/practices and make appropriate recommendations to ensure accreditation compliance. SACS now expressly requires student learning outcomes to demonstrate institutional effectiveness. The Committee determined that we were not, in all cases, capturing student learning outcomes (SLO's) in U-LEAD as intended.

The Committee observed that several of the Assessment Plans focused on assessment and, ultimately, addressed ways to improve assessment, with little mention of student learning outcomes. The Committee noted that some Plans that do address SLO's could be substantially improved with minor changes in the language. AEC members also noted that many faculty members well-trained in their content area are not trained in outcomes assessment. Some faculty members see assessment as an infringement on academic freedom. The committee agreed that some form of outreach to department chairs to bring emphasis to student learning outcomes is appropriate. OIEA staff contact chairs.

Decisions: OIEA staff will contact chairs to get U-LEAD centered on SLO's
Follow Up Items and Responsible person: MM

Agenda Item 3: The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and AEC's Potential Role in Facilitating ACC's QEP

Presenter: Mike McCarthy

Discussion:

The QEP is a new Core Requirement for reaccreditation that involves broad campus participation in a project related to student learning outcomes. The QEP process has been introduced since ACC's last SACS accreditation. This is OIEA's first official mention of QEP and the office will continue to notify the campus community of QEP procedures and requirements in other venues and meetings.

MM provided a list of QEP titles from other college accreditations for AEC consideration.

Decisions: None

Follow Up Items and Responsible person:

Agenda Item 4: Non-Instructional Program Review (NIPR)

Presenter: Mike McCarthy

Discussion: Mike announced that OIEA will no longer administer the ICS survey. We have decided to replace the ICS survey with non-instructional program review. AEC members agreed that a subcommittee would read and comment on a draft for non-instructional program review before the November meeting.

Decisions: None

Follow Up Items and Responsible person: MM to send draft and set up meeting.

Soon told members to email her if they are interested in attending the SACS Annual Meeting in San Antonio this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00

Next meeting: November 21, 2008