

Self-Study Steering Committee Meeting

Minutes

May 8, 2009

1:00-2:00 p.m.

Compressed Video Rooms

Attendees: Kim Lovelace, Nancy Dust, Joan Stirling, Mary Ellen Hawkins, Tina Wheelis, Joanna Fulbright, Jeremy Nicholson, Holly Ayers, Bettie Estes, Judy Sharp, Kim Whitten, Karla Rush, Libby Cone, Chaney Coleman, Ron Helm, Ruby Johnson, John Petersen, Rodney Williams, Sandra Miller, Deltha Shell,

Absent: Scott Pinkston, Wanda McConnaughay, Tracy Cone, Suellen Davidson, Mike DeLong, Judy Cannady

HLC Annual Conference General Impressions

Dr. DeLong was unable to attend the meeting so Joan Stirling presented his comments to the group.

Six Questions addressed when looking at assessment

1. Appropriate
2. Measured
3. Analyzed
4. Shared responsibility
5. Effective
6. Transparent

AQUIP – type of evaluation – the college sets a goal and has 3 years to reach that goal. This goal should be for something that needs improvement.

Joanna Fulbright said that she had a long conversation with another conference attendee and they discussed a scenario and she asked us to consider that scenario....

There is no such thing as a lazy faculty or a faculty that won't or can't understand but faculty that have lost faith and believe that the environmental factors are more important than what goes on in the classroom. They lose faith and lose the capability of good assessment.

Sandra Miller felt that she learned a lot but that without the fall meetings that she had participated in on campus, she would have been overwhelmed. She learned the difference in PEAK and AQUIP assessment and that the trend is moving toward AQUIP.

She said that our self study should paint a completely accurate picture of the college; it should have straightforward facts and assist us in becoming a better institution.

She learned about experiential learning and attended several sessions related to it. In another session, she learned that safety has to be a complete buy in for the whole college and we should be considering the external constituents at special events in our safety plan.

Rodney Williams noted that other institutions are dealing with the same issues that we are. Some of the challenges are:

- Effective, meaningful and systematic assessment
- Establishments and implementation of meaningful General Ed learning outcomes
- Planning & implementation of faculty development

Student learning was the main focus of assessment. We should be educating the entire student in ways that are measurable while teaching general education outcomes in all areas.

The question is "Are we really focused on improving student learning?"

Tina Wheelis noted that the efforts from the past year prepared her for the meeting. She attended sessions by HLC and a session on Financial Ratios.

She noted that the main question from HLC is "Is the student being served?"

HLC is interested in whether we use our financial resources effectively.

With the Higher Ed Act of 2008 a focus will be on the transfer of credit policy, verification of student ID and enrollment and program expansion plans.

Holly Ayers attended sessions concerning outcomes, first year experience, faculty buy-in, Co-Teaching and faculty mentoring.

She noted that the college should:

- Have a solid faculty morale
- Be sure faculty voices are heard
- Have outcomes that are central to the institutional core

We need to focus on HOW to Assess not WHY.

Jeremy Nicholson shared the template and the style guide for the self study report.

Joan Stirling noted that she had learned a lot but that most of it had been mentioned by others. She said that the committees will begin writing in the fall.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Nancy Dust