QEP Minutes
Assessment Subcommittee and
Desired Student Learning Outcomes, Actions to Be Implemented, &
Timeline Subcommittee

May 13, 2009

Members present: James LaPlant (chair), Kristina Cragg (chair), Tom Manning, Kimberly Tanner, Mike Savoie

Members absent: Deborah Davis, Karen Jacobson

1. The meeting minutes from April 28 were approved unanimously by the committee.

2. K. Cragg reported that the SACS VP will be here on Thursday, August 20. All subcommittee chairs will meet with the VP from 1:15 – 3:15 on that day. Other committee members are welcome to attend as well. At this meeting, the VP will provide feedback and guidance. K. Cragg said that he will send questions before his arrival for which the committee members can prepare.

3. Next the committee discussed analyzing Area B courses and designating applicable courses as research courses, critical thinking courses, and ethics courses. These courses could then be applied to corresponding Research Tracks. Another suggestion was to request that the departments analyze their own Perspectives syllabi and courses and let them make the research type distinctions.

   There was a general discussion of identifying "research tracks" within the various majors at VSU. We might ask department heads "what are the 3-4 courses in your department that best prepare students to participate in research?"

   Another suggestion was to create a database of faculty already engaged in undergraduate research and what they’re doing. Included in this database would be faculty willing to help with the QEP’s Office of Undergraduate Research once it’s established.

4. Activities for the QEP in the next five years would be:
   - Expand the Undergraduate Research Symposium to campus-wide participation.
   - Create applied research opportunities for students to support "experiential education"
   - Request that the President present an award for mentoring undergraduate research.
   - Revise Promotion & Tenure documents to include "number of students presenting."

   A presentation of what the QEP committee has done so far was suggested for the Dean’s Council in late summer or early fall.
5. The committee discussed organizing a Summer Undergraduate Research Experience;
   - A proposal for a pilot project in the summer of 2010 could be submitted as part of the Strategic Vision 2010 funding process. Previous grant proposals from Tom Manning could help to provide themes for the summer undergraduate research experience.
   - Must be interdisciplinary as well as inter-college
   - The pilot project for summer 2010 might involve 6 faculty members and 6 undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines.
   - Stipends for faculty and students would be requested, the budget committee would work the details out.
   - Each year would have a theme
   - There would be pre-requisites for taking the Summer Research project, that way students have the skills required for the project

6. K. Cragg will talk to Dr. Levy to ask him to attend the next meeting.

7. J. LaPlant stated that this subcommittee will meet again in mid-June to discuss the QEP timeline. It was also noted that the President and VPAA could be updated on the student learning outcomes, activities of the QEP and timeline at the end of June.

8. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.