Minutes

QEP Steering Committee Meeting

October 17, 2016

3:30, FH 105

Present:

Christopher Johnson, English program, presiding; Marie DeVincenzo, School of Business; Philip Fulmer, Physics; Crystal Graham, School of Health Sciences; Kim McCuiston, School of Education; Christine Masters, Professional Writing.

Professor Graham made a motion to approve the minutes from 12 September; Dr. Masters seconded the motion, which was approved without dissention.

The group then began discussing the assignments from the last meeting.

* Dr. Johnson reminded the group that he had sent electronically a brief narrative connecting the PEAK program to the university mission and strategic plan.
* Professor Graham provided a three-page handout reviewing some of the available scholarship. She called particular attention to research differentiating between internships and externships. Professor Graham also pointed to one study showing the benefits of professional experience for African-American students.
* Dr. Masters shared a draft survey with the group. During the discussion, the group suggested that some information may not be necessary--the students’ names, for example—but that more demographic information might be helpful. The group discussed strategies for disseminating the survey among students.
* Dr. Fulmer provided a spreadsheet recording his findings from previous REAL grant applications. In all, there were 33 applications that included some mention of internships and professional experience. The proposed projects, however, were tremendously diverse and often centered around activities that were unlikely to cultivate the skills and dispositions emphasized in the PEAK program. The group concluded that the REAL program is fulfilling its mission, but recognized the need for a program such as PEAK designed to cultivate professionalism.
* Dr. DeVincenzo reported that her colleagues in the School of Business were skeptical about subsidized internships. She noted that all internships offered through the School of Business are already paid positions. Dr. Fulmer indicated that the same was true for the physics program. Dr. Fulmer also raised questions about workmen’s compensation insurance for students on subsidized internships. Dr. DeVincenzo suggested a broader focus for the PEAK program, one that would emphasize career readiness. Funds, she suggested, could be used to provide workshops on campus, to purchase materials for certification courses, to pay for faculty members to attend professional workshops, and to pay faculty to supervise professional experiences.
* Dr. McCuiston reported that current I.E. reports provide relatively little information on the effectiveness of internships, and that many departments have SLOs that do not address experiential learning.

Following this discussion, the group briefly discussed PLOs and SLOs. Drs. Johnson and DeVincenzo provided draft learning outcomes.

Dr. Johnson indicated that he would assemble the materials from the meeting into a draft of the prospectus that is due to SACS-COC in February. He also indicated that he would contact the group with possible dates for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Johnson