

Minutes from QEP Steering Committee Meeting
March 16, 2018
Jasper Campus – President’s Conference Room / Wade Hall

Attendees: Mary Beth Barber, Dr. Reitha Cabaniss, Zonja Coleman, Nancy Earnest, Hollie Elmore, Dr. Russell Howton, Dr. Wade Nixon, Dr. Kristie Ramsey, Dr. Steve Rizzo, Toby Taylor, Sherry Terry, David Wages, Dr. Wendy Wood

Absent: Dr. Leslie Hartley, Robyn Houston, Dr. Melissa Mays, Dr. Janina Nobles, Max Weaver

Dr. Russell Howton welcomed everyone and thanked them again for serving this committee.

Dr. Howton shared information with the group regarding important dates related to SACSCOC reaffirmation and the QEP. This information was finalized in January at the SACSCOC Leadership Training held in Atlanta. Dates for the SACSCOC On-Site Visit will take place October 28-31, 2019 with the QEP being due around September 9, 2019 or no later than 6-weeks in advance of the on-site visit. Also, a brief discussion was held regarding the slight change in the SACSCOC standards and how it affects the QEP.

A recap of the purpose of the committee was presented and then each of the sub-committees presented their research findings in relation to the three proposed topics: critical thinking, reading comprehension, and study skills. Each sub-committee made recommendations from the template that was provided by Dr. Howton. Areas addressed included: 1) possible area of focus within the topic; 2) support provided by research; 3) availability of local data; 4) budget and resources needed; and 5) possible outcomes.

Critical Thinking Sub-Committee (Nancy Earnest, Robyn Houston, Dr. Melissa Mays, Toby Taylor, David Wages):

Conclusion: Although the College has identified critical thinking as a general education core competency and research indicates that all students can benefit from critical thinking instruction, the process of evaluating gains in critical thinking is difficult and the effects of improvement may not become evident during a student’s time at BSCC.

Reading Comprehension Sub-Committee (Mary Beth Barber, Dr. Reith Cabaniss, Dr. Kristie Ramsey, Dr. Steve Rizzo, Dr. Wendy Wood):

Conclusion: Many colleges and universities have focused on some form of reading comprehension / strategies as its focus of their QEP. However, the sub-committee recommends that the College not use reading comprehension because of potential problems with the lack of college-related data to demonstrate a need.

Study Skills Sub-Committee (Zonja Coleman, Hollie Elmore, Dr. Wade Nixon, Dr. Janina Nobles, Sherry Terry):

Conclusion: The sub-committee felt this topic would need to be further defined but could have an impact on course completion, retention, and graduation rates, regardless of academic discipline. The ultimate goal of this focus would be for students to become independent learners. Faculty professional development on teaching students how to learn, creating relevant academic resources through the use of on-campus and online seminars, on-campus study skills resource centers, and integration of resources such as lecture-capture into Canvas, as well as faculty making changes to pedagogical strategies were some of the ways this could be implemented college-wide. Local data used to support these recommendations came from SENSE, CCSSE, Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Survey, Graduating Student Surveys, and BSCC’s current strategic plan when outlines plans to create a one-stop academic resource center on each of the main campuses.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the committee unanimously made the recommendation to focus on the area of study skills with additional research needed to define the scope of the QEP.

Dr. Howton thanked the steering committee for their work and acknowledged that the College President would be appointing a QEP Director and a team of individuals to continue work on what this committee has begun.