

Louisiana State University at Alexandria
Faculty QEP Focus Group
June 18, 2013 2pm

Participants: Mary Kay Sunderhaus, Missy Laborde

Procedures: Dr. Mary Treuting and Dr. Cathy Cormier contacted the group by email and invited them to attend the meeting. Links to the QEP survey data were included in the email, participants were instructed to review the QEP survey results prior to the scheduled focus group. Mary & Cathy developed focus group questions which were distributed to participants at the beginning of the meeting. The discussion was lead by the QEP Co-Chairs, Dr. Mary Treuting and Dr. Cathy Cormier. Notes were taken during the meeting to capture data provided by participants.

What was your initial reaction to the QEP survey data?

- Need more flexibility in course scheduling. This is difficult to do when you are short faculty members.
- Communication across campus inadequate.
- Students have to juggle a lot to, we need to help students set themselves up for success. They need study skills.
- Many students tell me, "I never had to study in HS". Many times they don't know how to study. They are shocked after the first test.
- Students want online course but many times are not ready for them. They think they will be easy, all they have to do in "log on"
- One reason for our current problems is our culture. We have enabled our children.
- Need to look at the unique demographics we have on campus.

Possible Topics

- **Freshman Experience**

Follow up question: what would this look like?

- Build tradition: alma mater, logo meaning
- Build a campus; ownership, sense of belonging
- Computer resources
- Study skills
- Reading for comprehension (interpreting what the student is reading, application of content)
- Information literacy - where to find information without plagiarism
- Media literacy – thinking outside CENLA, global village, help student expand their boundaries.
- Time management
- Mentorship -Big sis little sis program. Older students mentoring incoming students.
- Reading syllabus, calculating grade
- Rules of campus
- Include student leaders
- Make students welcome "we are glad you are here"

Discussion

- Soft teaching – we need to be flexible. Cannot continue to be so self righteous. Rules are necessary for structure by each student should be treated individually.
- Sometimes we have a double standard, students expected to follow the rules but faculty don't always do so and no consequences.
- Advising – faculty should serve as mentor/coach
- There could be a list of questions that every advisor asks a student regarding study skills and progression.
- Acronym addressed by all faculty to follow through with freshmen course.

Should participation in the QEP be included as part of faculty evaluation?

- Yes faculty should be held accountable

How would you measure student outcomes if the QEP topic was a freshman experience?

- W/F rates
- Completers
- GPA
- Pre test post test measures
- Performance attitude survey
- Portfolio
- Journal – self reflection
- Assess motivation
- Reflective papers