

QEP Subcommittee Meetings

October 2019 (First official meeting for each subcommittee)

Overall Summary

The five QEP subcommittees each met during the month of October 2019. This initial meeting covered several consistent aspects, including an introduction to SACSCOC and QEP processes, introductions across committee members and co-chair roles, review of unique committee purposes and charges, background on current QEP themes and campus terminology (e.g., defining “integrative learning and experiential learning”), relationship/collaboration expectations with other subcommittees and participants, and general timeline for submitting committee recommendations in spring 2020. Each subcommittee also delved into their respective charges and action plans in more detail.

Below are key messages and take-aways as ascertained from meeting minutes from each QEP subcommittee.

Engagements Subcommittee

- Considerations for how we define beyond the classroom engagement
- When and how do students engage in their UofSC careers (considerations/questions for sophomores, juniors)
- How does risk management play a role in how we encourage and support beyond the classroom engagement?
- Next-steps for committee:
 - Research on peer institutions with QEPs/similar initiatives focused on beyond the classroom engagement, including types of experiences that “count”
 - Outreach with Palmetto College campuses
 - Review of current Experiential Learning Opportunities (ELOs), current offering, and additional programs that are in development
 - Review of current barriers to student engagement

Marketing Subcommittee

- Considerations for brand awareness challenges with various terminology in play (a list of relevant terminology was generated during the meeting).
- Considerations for timing and types of information shared during the first year.
- Discussion on where and how students are learning about opportunities for beyond the classroom engagement (e.g., UNIV101, academic colleges).
- Considerations for engagement with Palmetto College campuses and intersections with other subcommittees.
- Next-steps for committee:
 - Plans to review existing relevant offices/programs serving as communication channels for QEP-related topics/themes (e.g., beyond the classroom engagement).

Pilot Subcommittee

- Exploration of small study intended to occur during spring 2020.
- Goal of project is to inform next-steps of QEP in some form.
- Considerations for specific student populations through study (e.g., transfer students).
- Looking to include faculty/courses and beyond the classroom providers/engagements in study.
- Ideas discussed regarding potential assessments (e.g., pre-post assessment of students and faculty/providers, direct measures, and relationship to institutional metrics (e.g., retention).
- Next-steps for committee:
 - Research on transfer students at UofSC (student perspective, advising)
 - Review of current initiatives/support for transfer students
 - Review of reflection models/frameworks and how integrative learning/reflection manifests across various disciplines

Professional Development Subcommittee

- Committee members shared how they are currently involved in QEP topic areas and themes, including:
 - teacher education standards (reflection)
 - interdisciplinary pedagogy programs
 - support for beyond the classroom (BTC) providers and understanding of reflection and integrative learning
 - self-assessments and reflection tools to support students' demonstration of UofSC degree
 - BTC experiences as part of online courses, certificate program and Fellows program for early adopters (inclusion of reflection, integrative and experiential learning principles).
- Next-steps for committee:
 - Developing a repository of existing resources encompassing aforementioned areas

Technology and Assessment Subcommittee

- Discussed importance of defining the topic as part of decision-making process with assessments and outcomes.
- Discussed upcoming opportunities for vendor selections related to QEP assessments. Looking to schedule upcoming consultations for members to attend.
- Discussion on inventory of systems utilized to track student data/information related to QEP topics/themes. Looking to complete an analysis of these systems to support our overall understanding of supporting data.
- Looking to create a repository of assessments, both locally and nationally, that assess QEP topic themes (integrative learning, experiential learning, beyond the classroom engagement, reflection).
- Next-steps for committee:
 - Scheduling meeting with assessment software vendor
 - Committee members adding related assessments to shared folder
 - Focus on inventory of systems during next meeting