

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) at Mason

September 2008

Think. Learn. Succeed.



What is a QEP?

- A five-year intentionally designed plan that is both achievable and tangible
- A component of SACS Reaccreditation
- Addresses a well-defined topic or issue to enhance and improve undergraduate student learning
- Involves faculty, students, and staff from across the Mason community
- Has the potential to transform Mason around the chosen topic

Example SACS-approved topics

- Course redesign for large classes
- Strengthening global competence
- Enhancing undergraduate scholarly inquiry
- Educating student leaders to make a difference

Why is the QEP important?

- It will be a major focus of our on-site visit for SACS Reaccreditation in spring of 2011
- An opportunity to enhance student learning with resources to succeed
- It can transform Mason and can help move us from #1 “up-and-coming” to “arrived”

What does the QEP involve?

- Clear focus on an issue related to student learning
- Institutional capacity to succeed
- A well-designed assessment plan
- Broad-based involvement from the university community in the topic selection, development, implementation, and assessment

Consider these questions...

- Based on our experiences AND our institutional assessment data, what are we missing at Mason that could enhance student learning?
- Is there something that is already happening on campus that we could build upon or strengthen?

Where are we in our process?

- QEP Planning Committee has been meeting regularly since mid-April
 - Members appointed by President Merten and Provost Stearns
 - Committee Chair: Kim Eby
- Academic units with an undergraduate component and units that support student learning (University Life, Libraries, DoIT, etc.) have a representative

Where are we in our process?

- We have researched and discussed:
 - SACS' QEP guidelines
 - Institutional planning documents & data
 - Articles about student learning
- We have generated:
 - Four example topic proposals for feedback
 - Proposal Guidelines for those who wish to submit a proposal
 - Criteria for reviewing proposals and selecting our final topic

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Important Dates

<i>When?</i>	<i>What will be happening?</i>
Sept. – Nov. 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Request feedback and proposals from faculty, students, and staff
Jan. – Feb. 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Second round of feedback from faculty, students, and staff on narrowed group of proposals
Feb. – Mar. 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Topic selected and final proposal ready by March
April – May 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Work with academic and other units to identify key individuals to participate ❑ Begin research on implementation & assessment of topic
Summer 2009 through Fall 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Develop and write QEP ❑ Work with academic and other units to plan for their role in implementation & assessment ❑ Continue research on implementation & assessment of topic ❑ Finalize writing of QEP and submit to SACS
Spring 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ On-site visit by SACS (QEP is a major focus of this)
Fall 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Implementation & assessment of QEP ❑ Celebrate our Reaccreditation! 😊

Note: Please visit <http://qep.gmu.edu> for a more detailed and complete version of our timeline...

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How can you contribute?

- Submit a topic proposal
- Provide feedback about our proposals and those that will be posted from the Mason community
- Participate in upcoming forums/events
- Share your ideas with your colleagues
- Visit our website

Would you like to learn more?!

- Please visit <http://qep.gmu.edu>
- Email qep@gmu.edu if you have questions or ideas
- Contact a member of the QEP Planning Committee (see our website)