

QEP Committee 2008-2009 Report

The QEC and the QEP continued to encourage the improvement of education on Cleveland State's several campuses. The focus this year continued to emphasize General Education.

Before the fall Convocation, the QEC Chair had the opportunity to discuss the QEP at the new faculty orientation. Both the QEC Chair, Ryan Thompson, and the Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, Marcia Owens, spoke at the fall Convocation to faculty and staff. Marcia reviewed some of the results from the spring FSSE and CCSSE results. Ryan gave a presentation on different methods instructors can use before, during, and after class to better assess teaching styles, discover weaknesses in the student's learning, help improve retention, and provide documentation of efforts to improve educational practices. In the Spring, Ryan provided several different teaching models to demonstrate effective teaching techniques in the classroom.

Throughout the fall and spring, the QEC met periodically to plan QEC activities, discuss the content of the two newsletters produced yearly, and begin planning for the next five-year cycle of QEP. The annual Faculty-Staff Survey was also conducted. During the spring, the QEC again conducted the CCSSE and FSSE surveys to measure past performance and identify areas for improvement.

In December, President Hite, Marcia Owens, and Ryan Thompson were able to attend the annual SACS-COC Conference held in San Antonio to learn what others are doing to improve the quality of education on their campuses. Though funding opportunities were offered to faculty interested in attending other conferences, faculty were reluctant to use the money because of the budget cuts. In consultation with President Hite, it was decided to postpone the annual spring picnic until the fall. Through careful management and selective spending, the QEC ended the year with a balance of nearly fifteen thousand dollars.

As the QEC Chair, Ryan was invited to attend the committee meetings working on the Tile III grant. Several on the committee had expressed their desire to include the QEC and use its plans to help shape the grant proposal. During the meetings, he explained what the QEC had been doing and the direction the QEC planned to take during the next several years.

In addition to the other surveys undertaken by the QEC, they also sponsored an interest survey among the faculty, staff, and students to help determine the goals the QEC should focus on over the course of the next five years. Ryan visited several division meetings to explain the rewriting process and gather input from the faculty and staff and had the survey questions posted online on Cougarnet as well to get student responses. The number of responses, particularly from students, was impressive and led to the following themes being adopted as goals to work towards during the next five year cycle. Cleveland State will continue working on general education and then focus on service learning and improving off campus and online education. In the spring, the QEC began work on rewriting the QEP five year plan.

It appears there will be some changes in the administration of the QEC over the next several years due to budget constraints and changing policies from TBR. It will be important to clarify some of those changes to make sure that the accomplishments of the QEC continue to benefit the college and to ensure that we will still meet any new requirements from TBR or SACS.