

From: Serro, Dr. Linda
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2011 12:09 PM
To: McCulloch, Elspeth; Bolduc-Simpson, Sheila; Bencoter, Andrea; Kenny, Robert; Green, David
Subject: REQUEST TO DEVELOP A QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN TOPIC PROPOSAL

Hello All,

We are writing to request that you work as a team to develop a topic proposal for the next FGCU Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The QEP is a component of our accrediting process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC). SACS-COC tells us that,

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)... is a document developed by the institution that (1) includes a process identifying key issues emerging from institutional assessment, (2) focuses on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution, (3) demonstrates institutional capability for the initiation, implementation, and completion of the QEP, (4) includes broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies in the development and proposed implementation of the QEP, and (5) identifies goals and a plan to assess their achievement (SACS-COC Principles of Accreditation, 2010, p. 7).

FGCU recently completed work on its first QEP, and the university institutionalized changes made with respect to ecological perspective and community awareness and involvement as a result of that QEP. It is now time to choose a topic for FGCU's second QEP (2015-2019).

Our committee recently reviewed all of the submissions for QEP topics. We have narrowed it down to four: technology and pedagogy; undergraduate research; writing, critical thinking, and literacy across the curriculum; and student success and engagement. We are now in the second phase, where we are requesting slightly more detailed proposals from groups of qualified FGCU faculty and staff. We are soliciting these four topic proposals, and our committee will forward the two proposals with the most promise as FGCU QEPs to the Provost for his selection of the final topic. At that point, a broad university team will be assembled to develop the Quality Enhancement Plan, a process that will take two years, from 2012-2014.

One topic suggestion (from one of our students) was that we use the QEP to increase the number of courses that we offer in a blended (or hybrid) format. The student went on to describe benefits related to our mission (less carbon footprint) and to physical and financial constraints (offering more classes without the need for more classrooms). The committee found this idea compelling, but a bit narrow for a QEP, so we broadened the topic to include enhancing faculty use of technology in campus classes, hybrid classes, and distance learning classes. We are interested in using technology to improve pedagogy, so it is vital that we focus not on just implementing the use of more technology, but also that we measure to see if this technology use actually improves student learning (as quality is inherent in a QEP). So the topic we arrived at is "Enhancing student learning through technology".

We are hoping that you can assist in the process of identifying the potential for this topic to be our next QEP. We are requesting that you work together to develop a proposal for this topic. We expect that the proposal would include traditional on-campus classes, hybrid classes, and distance learning classes. We hope to see a focus not on the implementation of technology, but on the use of technology (which will require training faculty) and on the effect of this technology on student learning.

The most direct outcome of enhancing the technology used in classes will be improved student learning in those classes. It is likely that where student learning is improved, we will see higher student retention. We may also see secondary benefits such as those mentioned in the student's original proposal – a smaller carbon footprint (due to fewer trips to campus for students) and the ability to offer more class sections without building more classrooms.

We are hoping that you are willing to lead this effort, and include other faculty, staff or students, as you feel would be appropriate to develop a proposal for this topic. Successful proposals will demonstrate broad applicability and buy-in from across the university.

Your proposal must address the following criteria:

- Shows evidence of the use of institutional data/assessment in development of the proposal.
- Will make a significant contribution to student academic success and achievement of student learning outcomes.
- Resources needed to implement the project are reasonable for the proposed return on investment and can be supported by the University for the project's duration.
- The goals of the project can be achieved within four years of implementation.
- Clearly links to institutional mission and the goals of the university strategic plan.
- Has the ability to be readily assessed through quantitative and/or qualitative measures.
- Has broad-based support within the university community.

Your proposal is due to Linda Serro on January 20, 2012. It should be about four to five pages. Each writing team will be compensated \$1000.00 for their effort, to be divided among the writing team members.

We hope that you will accept this challenge. The QEP Selection Committee spent a great deal of time discussing team membership and feel all of you would be effective contributors to the development of this proposal. **Please respond to this e-mail by Wednesday, November 30, regarding your willingness to serve on this writing team.** If you have any questions about this process, please contact our committee chair, Linda Serro.

Sincerely,
QEP Selection Committee:

Linda Serro, Chair
Tony Barringer
Tom Bevins
Win Everham
Keishla Negron-Acevedo
Barbara Stites
Claude Villiers
Jim Wohlpart
Mary Ann Zager
Patricia Rice

Dr. Linda Serro
Professor
College of Education
Director, FGCU Teaching, Learning & Assessment Initiative
<http://www.fgcu.edu/TLAI/>
Florida Gulf Coast University
10501 FGCU Boulevard South
Fort Myers, FL 33965
239.590-7783
239.590-7801 FAX



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