

Minutes of the QEP Meeting on April 22, 2008

1. Members Present: Rick White, Paul Loeffler, Solomon Schneider, Chris Baldwin, Matt Rowe, Marcus Gillespie
2. Meeting began at 3:35 and ended at approximately 4:40
3. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by a majority vote
4. Items of Discussion:
 - a) Marcus reported that he had discussed the rationale, objectives and logistics with Dr. Payne, Dr. Eglsaer and Dr. Muehsam on May 15th. In that meeting, it was suggested that the committee “think outside the box” when developing ideas for delivering the course. They also said that the committee’s proposal to implement the course in phases was probably alright, but that we would need confirmation from SACS. Dr. Muehsam also said that he would contact a SACS representative to determine whether or not the course could be taught individually. At the time of the meeting on May 22nd, we had not received a response to this question.

Marcus said that he had reported on the status of the committee’s work at the Leadership Committee meeting on Thursday May 17th. In that meeting, Dr. price said that she had received phone calls from faculty members with questions about the course. She requested that Marcus send the names of the committee members to her, which he did. He also expressed concern to both Dr. Price and the committee that members of the science departments might think that the committee was trying to “rush things through” when, in fact, the committee was simply trying to meet externally mandated deadlines. These deadlines require that we have the syllabus developed for review by the Curriculum Committee in early fall, and that we conduct an assessment of the science courses during the fall. This assessment is to serve as a baseline for comparison of traditional science students with those that took the proposed course.
 - b) The committee discussed assessment issues and tentatively accepted Paul’s suggestion that we use an assessment instrument that is already developed, rather than trying to develop our own. Paul expressed concerns regarding the appropriateness (or inappropriateness) of using an assessment in the other science courses that was intended to evaluate our course. However, it was noted that this is a requirement of SACS and that it serves the purpose of comparing the traditional and proposed courses in terms of meeting the goals of enhancing scientific literacy and understanding of the nature of science.
 - c) The members of the committee were asked to review the assessment instruments provided, and any others that might be available, for purposes of deciding which instruments to use. Their preferences were to be discussed at the meeting on May 29th, 2008.
- Follow-up: On May 24th, Marcus received the SACS response concerning the teaching of the course by individuals. The SACS representative said that this was not possible; therefore the course would have to be team taught. Marcus then forwarded the rationale, objectives and logistical proposal to the Chairs of Physics and Chemistry, and to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences on Thursday afternoon. On Friday, Marcus received word that the phased approach would “probably” be alright.