Jefferson Davis Community College  
General Education Program and Student Learning Outcomes

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2007, 1:00 p.m., Hines Classroom 6

Present: Deborah Albritton, Carol Bates, Mike Tedder, Linda Miller, Latitia McCane, Beulah Patton, Ann Lambert

Next meeting: March 14, 2007, 1 p.m., Hines Classroom 6

Items of Discussion

- Questions regarding measuring student learning outcomes
- QEP focus on Improving student learning outcomes through early assessment and ongoing engagement
- Barriers to Success
- Learner-centered instruction
- Student Effort/Skills Building
- Support—a major initiative

Discussion

Carol was not able to answer the questions from the last meeting concerning measuring student learning outcomes. The Student Learning Outcomes Workshop sponsored by SACS was rescheduled for April. Carol hopes to learn the answers to the committee’s questions at the meeting in April and report back to the committee at our May meeting.

The committee members discussed the QEP initiatives. The discussion focused primarily on mathematics student learning outcomes as a good focus for the QEP. The general education student learning outcomes results for mathematics were very low. Also, the committee members discussed how COMPASS scores revealed that many students are not prepared for college-level mathematics. Mike Tedder, mathematics instructor, discussed how mathematics classes would greatly benefit from the QEP initiatives.

Barriers to Success – Mike discussed how many math students are not successful in classes due to reasons that are not related to math. Many students at JDCC have life challenges that prevent them for completing courses or from being successful in classes. Unrealistic expectations, lack of preparation, withdrawal policy, and lack of innovative teaching methods were also discussed.

Learner-Centered Instruction – All agreed that professional development would be necessary. Deborah Albritton will be attending a workshop related to learner-centered instruction, and she volunteered to serve on the learner-centered instruction QEP subcommittee.

Student Effort/Skills Building – Linda Miller and Beulah Patton volunteered to serve on this QEP subcommittee initiative.
Support – a major initiative – There was much discussion and many creative ideas. It was suggested that we contact MIS to discuss the feasibility of generating an alert when an instructor recorded a low grade. This alert could be in the form of an email, automated phone call, or both. The Early Warning System is too slow. There was discussion concerning advising. Members agreed that students need to see their advisors. Tutors are very important to the success of mathematics students. Improving peer tutoring was recommended for mathematics as a QEP initiative. Ann Lambert volunteered to serve on the Support QEP subcommittee. It was noted that we need faculty members as well as counselors on this committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Bates