Mr. Gainer and Mr. Chapman, mathematics instructors, discussed student learning outcomes for the QEP initiative which will focus on improving math scores. The math instructors felt that the best measure of student success is whether the student does well in the next level of math. The math instructors will continue to work on the student learning outcomes that will be applicable to all math classes and present to our next meeting.

Currently, student learning outcomes for math classes are tested by embedding selected test questions in the final exam. Mr. Gainer pointed out that instructors should know what questions are going to be embedded in the final exam so that instructors are sure they are covering the concepts that will be tested.

The committee continued discussion on significant issues related to student learning. At our last meeting, faculty discussed the idea of a form to document the use of faculty office hours. After further thought, the committee decided to disregard the form at this time. There was discussion about the best way to teach study skills—as a separate class or embedded into the classroom. It was agreed that both were needed. Professional development for faculty will be important so that faculty could learn better how to teach study strategies best fitted to their disciplines.

There was discussion about what the committee believed would have the greatest impact on improving student learning, especially math scores. The idea of enhancing the learning center with qualified mathematics instructors was discussed. Everyone agreed that qualified math instructors would be critical to the success of the center. Mr. Gainer mentioned how student scores had improved the semester that
Ms. Redmon tutored students outside of class. The learning center specialists would be credentialed in math and also realize the importance of teaching study skills, time management, goal setting, motivation, and other self-regulated learning skills.

Dr. Bates encouraged the faculty to think about the learning center idea and do some research before our next meeting. She reminded the committee that Section I of our report is due before June 14.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Bates