A joint meeting with the QEP Leadership Team, Subcommittees, and Math Focus Committee was held for the purpose of updating everyone on the QEP.

- Carol Bates gave a brief summary of how we evolved to this point. She gave a review of some of the data that steered the QEP Teams as they narrowed the focus. The most staggering statistic is that 90.82% of our students test into developmental math courses. CAAP reports, withdrawal rates, grades, tutoring requests, and other data were also examined in the process for narrowing the QEP focus.

- Allen Gainer gave a math focus update. He presented the findings of the pretests administered by math faculty. The results of the pretests were troubling, which also supported the fact that students experience difficulty with math. The pretest results are attached. Mr. Gainer explained that part of our QEP initiative would be to standardize the math classes with common syllabi, assignments, tests, etc. Another important component of the QEP is the learner support which will include a math success center, math coach, certified tutors, and supplemental instruction.

- The QEP subcommittee chairs gave a report on the progress of college initiatives that were developed as part of the QEP process. Mary Beth Lancaster reported on student-centered learning. Professional Development activities have promoted student-centered/critical thinking activities. Also, student learning outcomes will reflect a change in the upcoming institutional effectiveness cycle. SLOs will be written that will make student-centered learning a goal for the following year.

- Misti Nims reported on the progress of Blackboard. A new version of Blackboard has been incorporated which includes SafeAssign. SafeAssign has the aim of preventing plagiarism and protecting originality of work. The English faculty members were especially excited about this new feature of Blackboard. Ms. Nims explained that all faculty members would have access to the new version of Blackboard and that professional development would begin in the fall. Mr. Anthony Hardy informed the committee that Blackboard has the capability of interfacing with Facebook and Myspace.

- Marilyn Nicholson and YoLundra Mitchell gave a report on the one-stop center and revised early warning system. The committee has been researching several
community colleges in Florida and Alabama and some four year universities. The colleges and universities provide the same basic support services to students. The services include career and job services, advising and counseling services and tutorial services. Most community colleges whose services were reviewed do not have a one-stop center but provides these services at different locations throughout the campus. They have identified Alabama Southern Community College as a good place to visit because of their one-stop nature of providing services. It is their recommendation that the one-stop center at JD provide the following services:

Career Services

a. Inventories/ assessment
b. Career information/counseling
c. Information on Job Search
d. Resume writing/interview skills

Counseling

Student Success

a. Tutoring & Study Help
b. Academic Advising
c. Supplemental Instruction
d. Early Alert Program

Dr. Nicholson commended YoLundra for the amount of research she has conducted for the center. Darrell Blevins conducted surveys with faculty and students to gather information on enhancing the early warning system. Several titles were suggested for the new name. When the one-stop center is in place there will be more resources available for students to use to build skills and hopefully additional staff as well.

- Lee Barrentine gave an update on the progress of the enhanced orientation. One of the situations that has recently occurred is that all of the students do not sign up for orientation so it is difficult to project how many students will attend. Many more students than was anticipated participated in the Fall orientation. Mr. Barrentine said that this was a good problem to have. Mr. Barrentine asked if other members would be interested in working on the orientation committee with him. He stated that in many schools students participate in orientation as a required class. Additional options were suggested and will continue to be evaluated.

- Mr. Barrentine introduced the new Marketing Committee. The Marketing Committee will be responsible for developing a catch title for the QEP and for marketing the QEP to students, faculty, and community. Members of the Marketing Committee are Lee Barrentine, Chair, Lyn Gill, Deborah Albritton, Jan House, Maurice Moore, and Shirley Williams.
• Beth Billy discussed the QEP document. Dr. Billy stated that the draft of several chapters had already been completed. Dr. Billy reminded the committee that it is not unusual for QEP focus to shift and evolve as the committee conducts research, collaborates with colleagues, and writes the document. A tentative deadline for completion of the written document is April 20, 2008.

• Dean Hall concluded the meeting with closing remarks. She let the committee know how excited she was about the work of the QEP Math Focus Committee. She feels that we have a strong QEP. She encouraged the subcommittee chairs to continue working on the college initiatives and emphasized their importance. She praised Beth Billy for the work she had been doing writing the QEP document. Dean Hall spoke of a school that she had visited as part of a SACS team who did not have a very good QEP; however, because the team members were very enthusiastic about their initiatives, the SACS team allowed the QEP to “pass.” Dean Hall expressed her appreciation for the enthusiasm of everyone working on the QEP.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Bates