Report to Provost

The committee first reviewed a draft by Drury that outlined last year’s accomplishments and goals for 2007-2008; the final version will be presented to Dr. Lotven in an April meeting. Moon directed the committee to include as much NSSE/QEP evaluation as possible. She also recommended going through the original QEP goals for guidance. As points of reference, Moon and Salinero directed the committee to two web sites: IRP’s site has a handy QEP timeline and the SEC page has the raw NSSE/QEP data.

While all of the NSSE/QEP data is available, it has yet to be analyzed. At present, IRP simply collects the data. Who will analyze the data? The SEC?

Peripheral Documents

Drury then highlighted two documents that bear on SEC activities:

- “Orientation for Professors” – an article from the Chronicle of Higher Education that outlines a similar new faculty seminar as Delta State’s – an encouraging sign that the committee is on the right track.
- The Provost’s Email Newsletter from March 12th that outlined Delta State’s interest in the first year experience. As a topic close to SEC’s heart, the committee hopes to be involved in the process.

College Specific Offerings

Moon has encouraged all deans to work with respective departments in compiling a list of all relevant college specific faculty development. A discussion ensued on what actually constituted faculty development.

Better Documentation

The SEC needs to do a better job of documenting its activities. The committee has completed many tasks and pursued many worthwhile endeavors over the past five years; however, there’s a lack of documentation recording everything. Salinero agreed to contact Paul Hankins regarding the existence of a written report of SEC activities from 2006-2007. (That year’s SEC did meet with the QEP Steering Committee; however nothing was officially documented, i.e. “put on paper.”)

Moon also reminded the committee of the need for a standard operating procedures manual.
QEP Concerns

Right now, DSU’s QEP focuses primarily on methods of engagement, but is much too broad in its scope. While student learning is the undeniable centerpiece of the plan, the committee is unsure how much student learning is actually being measured through NSSE and the QEP Student Survey. Perception is measured, but actual learning is not.

Future Tasks of the Committee

- Determine how to give the QEP some teeth and actually measure learning rather than perceptions.
- Talk to other schools that created their QEP at the same time as Delta State. Have they modified their plans at all?
- DSU probably needs to ask some specific questions. Move away from the current broad interpretation and find a single easily definable object that can be easily measured.