QEP Assessment Subcommittee
Minutes
January 27, 2016

Attendees: Dr. Sarah Beach, Ms. Danielle Buehrer, Dr. Wendy Harrison, Mr. Steve Janousek, Dr. Erin Porter, Dr. Mark Richardson, Dr. Darby Sewell, and Dr. Eunkyung You

1. Welcomed Dr. Darby Sewell. She is the new Chair of this committee in her new role as the Assistant VPAA, Engaged Learning, and the Director of the QEP. Note that the title of this position matches the title of ABAC’s QEP, Engaged Learning through Internships, Mentored Research, and Study Abroad.

2. Reviewed approved operational definitions (Approved by the QEP Development Committee):
   a. Engaged learning: Is an understanding and a disposition that a student builds across the curriculum and co-curriculum, from making connections among ideas and experiences to synthesizing and transferring learning to new, complex situations within and beyond the campus. (Borrowed from AAC&U Integrated Learning VALUE Rubric)
   b. Internships: Expansion on the disciplinary knowledge and skills of students while also gauging their ability to apply learning in authentic settings as they contend with real-world experiences. (Adapted from The Principal Internship: How Can We Get It Right?)
   c. Mentored research: An inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline under the guidance of a content expert. (Adapted from the Council on Undergraduate Research.)
   d. Study abroad: In-classroom and out-of-classroom related activities that complete part of a student’s degree program through a credit-bearing education abroad experience. (Adapted from Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad.)

   Type of Study Abroad Program at ABAC
   Field/Experiential Studies Program
   • Experiential study allows for cultural immersion by living and engaging in a particular activity in the host country.
   • Depending on the nature of the project, the length of the program will vary from one week to a few weeks.
   • These programs are led by ABAC faculty.
   • An ABAC faculty member supervises the student’s work.
   • Registration is facilitated at ABAC.
   • Students earn resident credit at the 3000-4000 level.
   (Adapted from the USG Study Abroad Handbook.)

3. Reviewed process outcome to describe what ABAC will do as it implements the QEP.
   a. ABAC will provide resources, tools, support, and guidance to its students and faculty to facilitate engaged learning experiences.

4. Revised and approved proposed student learning outcomes:
a. Key words from ABAC’s current strategic plan, Destination ABAC Strategic Initiative 3.2. Each school shall develop and implement co-curricular programs to engage students through teaching, mentoring, coaching and the use of internships and coop programs that enhance learning, develop problem solving skills, encourage creativity and innovation, develop social skills, promote work ethic and develop verbal and written communication skills.
   i. Problem-solving skills
      1. Students will apply skills, abilities, theories, or methodologies gained in one situation to new situations to solve problems or explore issues.
   ii. Verbal & written communication skills
      1. Students will demonstrate use of conventions appropriate to a specific discipline and/or writing task(s), including organization, content, presentation, and stylistic choices.
   iii. Application of disciplinary knowledge
      1. Students will compare academic knowledge to life experiences to infer similarities and differences and acknowledge perspectives other than their own.

5. Discussed means of assessment.
   a. Rubric (Develop Spring Semester 2016; Pilot Spring Semester 2016 for Mentored Research; Pilot Summer Semester 2016 for Internships & Study Abroad)
      i. Paper
      ii. Presentation

Meeting adjourned 4:55 PM.

Amendment:
Recommendations made by Dr. Mark Richardson, and approved by the QEP Director, Dr. Darby Sewell.

a. Engaged learning: The acquiring of knowledge and abilities across the curriculum and co-curriculum by making connections among ideas and experiences and by synthesizing and transferring learning to new, complex situations within and beyond the campus.

b. Internships: In-classroom and out-of-classroom activities that expand students’ disciplinary knowledge and skills while also challenging their ability to apply learning in authentic settings as they contend with real-world experiences.

c. Mentored research: An inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student under the guidance of a content expert that makes an intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline.

d. Study abroad: In-classroom and out-of-classroom activities that complete part of a student’s degree program through a credit-bearing education-abroad experience.