Seahawks SOAR Advisory Committee (Minutes for April 24, 2014 meeting)

Attendance

Laura Stafford, Co-Director of QEP Implementation; Ben Stafford, Co-Director of QEP Assessment; Jamie Clark, Chair of QEP Advisory Committee; Charles Gongre, QEP Advisory Committee member; Barbara Huval, Student Book Clubs member; Andrea Rodriguez, QEP Advisory Committee member ; Diana Crutchfield, Student Book Clubs member; Zeb Lowe, Sub-Chair of Student Book Clubs; and Lawanda Brown, Student Book Clubs member.

It was reported that Grace Megnet. Chad Clark, and Chandra Brooks were unable to attend due to meetings, seminars, and other obligations.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by Jamie Clark. Rules of parliamentary procedures were suspended.

1. Sub-committee Reports

Jamie Clark gave a report regarding the Faculty Book Club. It was reported that there had been a positive turnout for the Spring 2014 Faculty Book Club. The Faculty Book Club has been met with enthusiasm from its various members from different departments and educational backgrounds. From Digital Natives To Digital Wisdom by Marc Prensky was the book of choice for the Spring Semester 2014. Overall, the Faculty Book Club was successful and enjoyed by the faculty members.

Zeb Lowe gave a report regarding the Student Book Club. Night by Elie Weisel was the book of choice for the Spring Semester 2014. It was reported that the face to face student book clubs were very positive. It was also reported that the Facebook student book club received a great deal of participation as well. Zeb reported that the field trip to the Holocaust Museum was a great success. It was reported that many students were unaware of the magnitude of the holocaust and the field trip helped students grasp its severity. It was reported that the podcast of Louise Joskowitz, holocaust survivor, and the interview with Pepi Joskowitz Nichols, daughter of Louise Joskowitz, was a huge success. Door prizes were given away as well as 2 nooks.

Dr. Laura Stafford gave a report for Grace Megnet regarding the Information Bulletin Board Sub-committee. It was reported that the current bulletin boards across campus were having a positive effect on the students. The bulletin boards are set up to be interactive and students are leaving messages, examples, and illustrations focusing on reading strategies. The bulletin boards also promote the student book clubs. Bulletin boards will be rotated from building to building in August prior to the Fall Semester 2014. Instructors will be asked for suggestions in order to promote more participation with students and the interactive bulletin boards during Faculty Development Days. It was suggested that perhaps teachers could sponsor a bulletin board and/or reading strategy.

Dr. Laura Stafford gave a report for Chandra Brooks regarding the Reading Strategies Sub-committee. It was reported that reading strategies will remain the same and continue to be used in the Fall Semester 2014. It was reported that faculty should continue to insert reading strategies whenever and wherever applicable. It was also reported to continue to promote viewing of the training videos to students and new faculty.

Dr. Laura Stafford stood in for Chad Clark and gave a report for the Reading Resource Sub-committee. It was reported that the links to the library are still in place. It was reported that Chad Clark is providing additional links to schools with similar programs.

1. Implementation and Assessment Report

Dr. Ben Stafford provided reports regarding the Holocaust Podcast and Interview, the MARSI baseline, and the Nelson Denny.

Feedback from the Holocaust Podcast was very positive and beneficial. 65% of the audience reported finding out about the Holocaust Podcast from the LSCPA Facebook Page. 65% of the audience indicated that literacy is a problem in the Golden Triangle Area. 50% of the audience indicated knowing an individual who cannot read. 80% of the audience would like to participate more in the book clubs. 90% liked the podcast.

The Metacognitive Awareness of Reading Strategies Inventory (MARSI) has three scales, including global reading, support reading, and problem solving strategies. According to current data collected, students have scored 72% in global, 69% support, 78% in problem solving, and 73% total.

The Nelson-Denny Reading Test measures comprehension and vocabulary. The goal is to show at least one grade level improvement after being exposed to reading and vocabulary building strategies. According to the current data collected, students have 6th grade comprehension levels and 10th grade vocabulary levels. The goal of one grade level improvement was met. The percentage of first time freshman in each of the implementation classes are shown below.

Arts 1301 – 55% Gov 2305 – 55%

Arts 1316.85 – 36% Hist 1301.01 – 65%

Engl 1301.01 – 82% Hist 1301.02 – 91%

Engl 1301.02 – 60% Nederland History not collected

Engl 1301.03 – 85% Nederland Engl 1301.01 – 50%

Engl 1302.83 – 0% Nederland Engl 1301.02 – 42%

Dr. Laura Stafford discussed the Seahawk SOAR budget. It was reported that the budget went well for the 2013/2014 year. The budget covered speakers for both semesters. It also covered the bus trip to the Holocaust Museum in Houston, Texas. It covered t-shirts, wrist bands, and big prizes such as the nooks. Gratitude was expressed to Dr. Stretcher for donating door prizes for the Student Book Club. Gratitude was also expressed to the Student Government Association for donating door prizes for the Student Book Club.

Dr. Laura Stafford discussed Faculty Development for the Fall Semester 2014. Faculty Development will take place on August 20 and 21, 2014. The majority of the time will be spent in computer workshops regarding the use of Blackboard. Instructors will be placed in different workshops for different levels of Blackboard experience. The workshops will take place in Madison Monroe Building. The workshops will be 2 to 3 hours each day. It was also reported that Darren McIntire will teach Blackboard workshops throughout the school year.

1. Fall Semester 2014 Plans for next semester

Jamie Clark reported that The Liars’ Club by Mary Karr will be the book of choice for the Fall Semester 2014 for the Faculty Book Club. This book is being read by the Student Book Club as well.

Dr. Laura Stafford reported that The Liars’ Club by Mary Karr will be the book of choice for the Fall Semester 2014 for the Student Book Club. On November 10, 2014 a mental health professional from the Southeast Texas area will give a presentation regarding dysfunctional family life on the Lamar State College – Port Arthur campus. This will be open to the public.

Dr. Laura Stafford also reported that If The Devil Had A Wife by Frank Mills and Rebecca Nugent will be the book of choice for the Spring Semester 2015. It was reported that it is planned to have a speaker on April 13, 2015 regarding the book. It was also reported that possibly a field trip to Shangri La Botanical Gardens in Orange, Texas could be arranged.

IV. Dr. Laura Stafford presented a Request for Change Without Budget Impact to the Seahawk SOAR Advisory Committee.

“During the course of the Spring 2014 semester 3 items of “change” were brought to the attention of the QEP Co-Directors of the Seahawk SOAR for consideration.

1. Dr. Carol Barbay sent an email requesting that we use our Faculty Book Club author, Marc Prensky as a guest speaker for our campus Faculty Development Days in August, 2014. She contacted him by email and he is willing to further discuss the possibility. This idea has been discussed with Darren McIntire and Ben Stafford who are conducting the Faculty Development Activities and they agree that a recorded presentation would be best and should aid in controlling costs. It is proposed for discussion the possibility asking Mr. Prensky to record his responses to several questions generated by the Faculty Book Club members to be used as the “kick-off” speaker on August 20, 2014 since this Faculty Development focus is on Faculty Computer/Blackboard Training.
2. On page 60 of the SOAR report we discussed the separation of incoming freshmen into two groups; one which would receive the experimental intervention and one which would serve as a control group. Two problems have occurred over the span of our QEP that have caused our QEP committee to vote to discontinue this experimental group / control group model. In the first semester of our QEP it was calculated that only 58.61% of students in total of 12 experimental classes truly met the definition we had set forward for “first time students”. This created a too small sample size of experimental students and caused the committee to vote to postpone collection of control group data in the first year and enlarge the number of classes where the experimental design was being offered in order to obtain a sufficient experimental group. Based on the results of the Fall 2013 Nelson-Denny implementation it is proposed that instead of using 8 am MWF academic courses to administer the test we use the Fall sections of EDUC 1100 or PSYC 1100 (24 in total) to better capture the first semester freshman, which is the target audience for the project. We will continue to collect from Co-enrolled classes such as HIST 1301 and ENGL 1301 on campus and at any off campus site because these course should have a large section of first time college students. We found that many more sophomores and second semester freshmen were taking the 8 am courses. Now that EDUC 1100 and PSYC 1100 are part of the NEW CORE, it is hoped that first time freshman will take it in their first semester.
3. Prior to the meeting ending, the discussion returned to the Nelson-Denny Reading Test. The discussion centered on the results from the Nederland High School Co-enrollment students. It was mentioned that an English teacher is giving the Nelson-Denny, while another history teacher is refusing to give the Nelson-Denny. Dr. Gongre suggested having the chemistry teacher give the Nelson-Denny. Zeb Lowe gave the suggestion of offering the Nelson-Denny online. Dr. Ben Stafford stated that the Nelson-Denny could not be offered online at this time due to not possessing the digital rights to administer the Nelson-Denny online. However, these digital rights might be secured by our campus in the near future and at that time the Nelson-Denny could be given online. The advisory committee further recommended that we only focus on the first time college students in the selected courses that take the Nelson Denny in determining the impact of the use of the interventions for the purpose of this study. Plus since we required all LSCPA faculty to be trained in the implementation strategies and employ these interventions in their classrooms as appropriate which impacts the MARSI results over the five year period, there would not be a control group available to include in the study.

Dr. Gongre made a motion to accept the changes. Dr Huval seconded the motion. The Seahawk SOAR Advisory Committee unanimously agreed to accept the changes.

The next Seahawk SOAR Advisor Committee meeting was tentatively set for Thursday, November 20, 2014. This meeting was adjourned at 3 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By

Name & Signature