**Seahawks SOAR Advisory Committee Minutes**

**April 14, 2016**

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Jamie Clark, chair, at 2:00 pm in the Madison Monroe Building, Room 152. Rules of parliamentary procedures were suspended.

1. **Members Present:**

Dr. Laura Stafford, Co-Director of QEP Implementation

Mark Knowles, Co-Director of QEP Assessment

Jamie Clark , Chair of QEP Advisory Committee

Caitlin James, Student Book Clubs member

Zeb Lowe, Sub-Chair of Student Book Clubs

Grace Megnet, Sub-Chair of Information Boards

Claire Thomason, Information Boards member

Christina Wilbur, Faculty Book Club member

Chandra Brooks \*, Sub-Chair of Reading Strategies

T. Kash Cox \*, Sub-Chair of Reading Resources

Dr. Barbara Huval \*, Student Book Clubs member

Laurie Marcantel \*, QEP Advisory Committee member

Felicia McAdams \* ,QEP Advisory Committee member

**Guest(s):**

Dr. Betty Reynard, President

Bradley Fant, Student Government Association

\*Denotes Absence

1. **Sub-committee Reports**
2. Jamie Clark gave a report regarding the Faculty Book Club. It was reported that there had been a positive turnout for the Spring Semester 2016 Faculty Book Club. The Faculty Book Club has been met with enthusiasm from its various members from different departments and educational backgrounds. It was reported that 8 faculty members participated in the book club. Harry Truman’s Excellent Adventure by Matthew Algae was the book of choice for the Spring Semester 2016. The story was about Harry and Bess Truman’s post-presidential 2500 mile road trip in the 1950s. The Faculty Book Club met on three occasions during the Spring Semester 2016 (February, March, April). The club meetings were very informal, allowing for late arrival and departure as needed. Popular highlights directed toward specific topics were given to members. These highlights were addressed at each meeting.
3. Dr. Laura Stafford and Zeb Lowe gave a report regarding the Student Book Club. Brave New World by Aldous Huxley was the book of choice for the Spring Semester of 2016. The following report summaries were given.
4. Ruby Readers

Sponsor: Michelle Judice

Attendance at my Ruby Readers was rather dismal, 4 - 6, this semester and coaxing them to attend tiresome. I want to take action and do something that will lead to more book discussion participation.

I have been thinking about what I could do to engage more students in the Student Book Club and here is what I think I'll try next semester with *On the Road*, which I'm really looking forward to reading with them.

The plan: as the Book Club meetings are divided into chapters so too are my tests scheduled. Next semester, after the test, which is on Blackboard, each time, I will have the Book Club meeting *in class* on that very same day! (Yes, I know you're thinking "captive audience" but it's a win-win. they receive extra credit and I have more Book club attendees.)

I think some have to leave school for work immediately following classes so they can't participate. It will also allow those who would like to the opportunity to see what a Book Club is and what actually occurs during one. Well, it's an idea, I am definitely open to any others.

1. Gates Go Getters

Sponsor: Caitlyn James

My book club met in the afternoons in the library. We had 4-7 in attendance and one of our members won the Nook at the Movie Event. The meeting room in the back of the library is great because we could have snacks in there. I brought a snack and drink to all my meetings, college students are always starving, so this worked out well. The first meeting we focused on the history behind the book, dystopian and utopian societies, and any questions or confusions they had upon beginning the novel. They really enjoyed my brief lecture on banned books and futuristic societies. I then had them discuss why the book is eerie to read today. I asked if they could make connections to our society today. Then I requisitioned them to discuss the creepiest part of the book thus far (and what makes it creepy). The next meeting was missing a few members, but we still had productive and interesting discussions about the next section of the book. I had several discussion questions on note cards and I asked them to write their answers on blank cards so we could cover the discussion boards with their responses. This worked out well too. The third meeting I gave an "end" lecture on the novel (short) and then we filled out some more cards on characters and events. I also asked them to discuss the things they liked and disliked about the novel. Then we took a survey and said our goodbyes. Very fun! I would definitely do it again.

1. Early Birds

Sponsor: Dr. Laura Stafford

The Early Birds met at 7:15am in the Snack Bar of the Student Center for our three meetings. We had 5-8 members attend and those that missed used the Facebook Cub to catch up. The first meeting I had hardboiled eggs in a large jar which represented the embryos that were decanted in the book and I had caramel popcorn as SOMA. We discussed the sexuality element of how the children in the book were raised and the students voiced very conservative viewpoints about the lack of morality as we see it today. The second meeting I served cornbread and bacon which was symbolic of the Reservation section of the book. The bacon represented the snakes at the Reservation. The students discussed what the differences were for John Savage as he came to “Civilization”. The final meeting had chocolate eclairs which were served to the children when Linda died so they would think of death as a happy time. The students wrote about what stood out to them in the book and how they felt about John’s suicide at the end. At each meeting the responses to our discussion questions were written on cards and I put them on our designated Book Club board in the PAC with pictures of the food items and group shots with their T-shirts. At the third meeting I brought my laptop so they could take the Survey Monkey survey to be entered into the drawing for the NOOK. One of my book club members won the NOOK at the Movie Event.

1. Facebook Book Club

Sponsor: Dr. Laura Stafford

There were only 2-3 students who took advantage of the Facebook discussion posting this semester. They used it because they missed a regular club meeting. I know that over 180 people saw the posting because of the page tracking but they didn’t respond to the questions. Those that did respond I printed the responses and posted them on our designated board in the PAC so students could read the responses as they waited for class. I want to get a better picture to post as the Event picture so students can find it on our Facebook page with more ease.

1. SSC Club

Sponsor: Chad Belyeu

We had three student members in the Student Success Center book club.  We were a small but spirited group with plenty of lively discussions and interactions.  We had no particular incentives or special activities other than book discussion.  The members seemed to like the convenience of the meeting time (Wednesdays @ 1:30 pm.)

1. High School Hawks

Sponsor: Diane Johnson ; English IV and Co-Enrolled 1301 & 1302

Nederland High School

I had thirty students sign up to attend book club, and I had twenty-seven attend religiously. We tried meeting on Thursday evenings, but once spring sports began, we had to alternate between Mondays and Thursdays. We also had our first meeting in my classroom at 6:30, but due to after school practice, we met at 7:00 for the next two.  Students were offered extra credit if they not only attended but made significant contributions to the discussion.

1. Hawk’s Nest Student Book Club

Sponsor: Laurie Marcantel, Disability Services Coordinator

Members: Shay Ashworth, Juliana Babington, Andrea Ortiz, Andreana Ortiz

Meetings:  Thursday, February 4, 2016 ; Thursday, March 3, 2016;Thursday, March 31, 2016

\* All meetings were held in the MMED, Room 231 at 1:00 p.m.

02/04/2016 – For the initial meeting, I set up an “English Tea” with a variety of teas, honey, sweeteners, cream, & cake and cookies.  The students introduced themselves and discussed dates/times of meetings and option of the Facebook club.  Instructed students to complete the SOAR book club attendance slips for each time they attended meeting and to submit forms to their instructors for extra credit.  During this meeting the club focused on Chapters 1 – 5, including the characters introduced in those chapters, the setting and lifestyles of the characters & the difference between utopia and dystopia.  The students verbalized their opinions of the Bokanovsky Process, behavioral conditioning of children and use of hypnopaedic conditioning.  They did not approve of the means used to control society.  [All members listed attended this meeting.]

03/03/2016 – During this meeting the club discussed Chapters 6 – 12, which included contrasting the settings of London and the Savage Land in 2540 AD (632 AF).  Agreed we would rather live in the Savage Land.  Discussed characters and used forms (sponsor created) for comparing/contrasting characters and discussing SQ3R concept.  Also, discussed SOMA is a prescriptive medication currently used and quote from Shakespeare for title of novel.  (both forms used are attached) Finally, discussed who we think could be actors/actresses for some characters.  (Lenina = Jennifer Lawrence; John = Leonardo de Caprio; Bernard Marx = Jay Baruchel; Mustapha Mond = George Clooney) [Shay Ashworth & Juliana Babington attended this meeting.]

03/31/2016 – Discussed Chapters 13 – 18.  Discussed importance of completing the Book Club Survey and provided information about how to go to Survey Monkey to complete the survey.  Discussed how John’s response to Lenina’s emotions and behavior, followed by his reaction to the children responses to Linda’s death and his reaction to SOMA distribution play into his distaste for the civilized world and the idea of progress.  Also, discussed Mond’s perspective of what actions had been necessary to control society in order to provide stability for civilization.  Discussed John’s decision to live alone, followed by the events leading to his suicide.  Discussed John’s alternatives of possibly returning to the Savage Land or living on an island.  Finally, discussed goals of society and what students would be willing to do to live with happiness, world peace, etc. in an attempt to create a utopia.  Agreed too much freedom would be given up to create a utopia. [Shay Ashworth & Juliana Babington attended this meeting.]

1. Dr. Laura Stafford gave a summary of the Student Book Club Movie Night

On April 11, 2016 the movie adaptation of Brave New World starring Leonard Nimoy was shown in the Banquet Room of the Parker Center. SGA members made popcorn and Dr. Stafford provided a large bowl of candy (identified as SOMA) with bottles of water for refreshments. The students who had read the book were very amused at the candy being called SOMA and the entire bowl was consumed. 75 bags of popcorn were made, but we ran out so I recommend we make four batches next semester. We ran out because a class was also meeting upstairs that night and those students helped themselves to the popcorn.

We had 88 in attendance and we got 56 surveys back at the end. These surveys will be given to Mark Knowles for assessment purposes. Dr. Stafford welcomed the group at 6:05pm and reminded the group to silence their phones and not record the film. Mr. Zeb Lowe gave a brief introduction to the video and explained how movies and novels are not the same. He also stayed in the lobby to give late arrivals their door prize tickets and we did have a group come in about 6:15 and a large group at 6:30. Personally I think students think we are like the movie theaters in the area that show twenty minutes of trailers before the film starts. I discussed this issue of late arrivals with Mr. Lowe but he feels the 6pm time is ideal because we were able to get out by 8pm.

We had a large group of Nederland High School students attend and that makes a wonderful recruiting opportunity for our campus. The door prize drawings and NOOK drawings were well received and there was a very enthusiast energy as we closed the event. The movie event seems to be popular. Our poster this year was designed by one of our student graphic art interns on campus and I hope we can continue to give student interns an opportunity to contribute in this way.

1. Grace Megnet gave a report regarding the Information Bulletin Board Sub-committee. It was reported that the current bulletin boards are set up to be interactive and are having a positive effect on students. The bulletin boards promote reading comprehension and vocabulary development strategies. The boards will continue to rotate through the different buildings on campus.
2. Jamie Clark gave a report for Chandra Brooks regarding the Reading Strategies Sub-committee. It was reported that faculty and staff across campus are incorporating various reading strategies into instruction. It was reported that reading strategies will remain the same and continue to be used in the Fall Semester of 2016.
3. Jamie Clark gave a report for Kash Cox regarding the Reading Resource Sub-committee. It was reported that all of the links provided for the Seahawks SOAR web page are working and there have been no broken links reported.

1. **Implementation and Assessment Report**
2. Dr. Laura Stafford gave the following report:

This spring the QEP Co-Directors met and discussed the results of the compared data from the QEPs two years of Nelson-Denny data to historical data used in the QEP’s baseline design. This comparison revealed a steady decrease in incoming freshmen enrollment had occurred at the same time as the QEP’s implementation. Faced with a smaller overall body of first time students and a need to include as many as possible in the QEP Co-Directors decided to continue the project without trying to develop the idea of a control group, which had been recommended at the Spring of 2014 SOAR Advisory meeting. The focus of the comparison of results between the two groups of students that exist in each of the experimental classes will continue. These groups are identified as the “none” or first time college student and the “some” group which has had a previous college class or developmental class. The fall of 2016 and the fall of 2017 collection of Nelson-Denny results will be identified in this way as well.

The MARSI surveys were administered to sophomore capstone classes in the technical division and sophomore English Literature classes in the academic division to capture as many existing students as possible to see what their awareness levels are of our implementation strategies. The results of this spring’s data collection will be shared at the August 2016 Faculty Development Day. Since Mark Knowles became the Co-Director of Assessment for the QEP in January there has not been enough time before this committee meeting to complete all the tabulation of results for the Fall 2015 Nelson-Denny or the Spring 2016 MARSI surveys, but they will be a priority for the summer.

1. **Fall Semester 2016 Plans**
2. Jamie Clark reported that faculty had been asked to email suggestions regarding books to discuss in the future. After receiving many suggestions, it was determined that Ties to Tattoos: Turning Generational Differences into a Competitive Advantage by Sherri Elliot-Yeary will be the book of choice for the Fall Semester of 2016.
3. Zeb Lowe reported that On the Road by Jack Kerouac will be the book of choice for the Fall Semester of 2016 for the Student Book Club. It was recommended to view the movie, On the Road, directed by Walter Salles. It was recommended to continue to use the Parker Center Banquet Room. Popcorn and sodas can be served during the film. However, it was suggested to also include coffee (coffee shop atmosphere). This ties in with the atmosphere and environment portrayed in the book. After viewing the film, door prize drawings will take place. Viewing the movie cuts the price of a guest speaker but still allows an evening event. This format has proven to be successful in previous semesters.
4. **Adjournment**
5. The next Seahawk SOAR Advisor Committee meeting was tentatively set for Thursday, Nov 22, 2016 at 2:00 pm. This meeting was adjourned at 3 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

**Jamie Clark**

Jamie Clark, Chair of QEP Advisory Committee