Seahawks SOAR Advisory Committee (Minutes for April 25, 2013)

Attendance

Ben Stafford, Co-Director of QEP Assessment; Zeb Lowe, Student Book Clubs member; Laura Stafford, Co-Director of QEP Implementation; Chad Clark, Chair of reading Resources; Jamie Clark, Chair of QEP Advisory Committee; Kash Cox, Reading Resource member; Dan Walzer, Faculty Book Club member; Heath Vercher, Student Book Clubs member Charles Gongre, QEP Advisory Committee member; Allison Wright, QEP Advisory Committee member; Steven Williams, SGA member; Stephanie Armstrong, Sub-Chair of Reading Strategies; Sally Byrd, Chair of Student book Clubs; Diana Crutchfield, and Grace Megnet, Sub-Chair of Information Boards

Chandra Brooks had notified of previous engagement.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm. Rules of parliamentary procedures were suspended.

1. Introduction of Public Library Representatives

Steven Williams of the Port Arthur Public Library and Deborah Harper of the Groves Public Library were welcomed and introduced to the Seahawks Soar Advisory Committee.

1. Assessment

Dr. Ben Stafford gave an overview of the quality enhancement program and reading strategies. He discussed the PSLO Alpha, the pre-test, and the post-test. According to current data collected from the pre-test, students have approximately 40% mastery or knowledge in a course. According to current data collected from the post-test, students have approximately 80% mastery or knowledge in a course. Dr. Ben Stafford also discussed the current data collected from the administration of the Metacognitive Awareness of Reading Strategies Inventory (MARSI). The MARSI has three scales including global, supplemental, and probability. According to current data collected, students have scored 68% to 70% on each scale. Dr. Ben Stafford suggested that the developmental resources that are available on our campus could have possibly influenced the scores and stated that in the future students will be asked in advance about his or her participation in developmental courses on our campus or other college campuses. Dr. Ben Stafford also discussed feedback from surveys regarding the Student Book Clubs. According to surveys the book clubs received positive responses including students developing insight and wanting to read more.

Dr. Gongre suggested that students should be asked specifically about participating in developmental reading courses rather than math or writing.

Stephanie Armstrong agreed with Dr. Gongre regarding participation in developmental reading courses.

1. Sub-committee Reports

Jamie Clark gave a report regarding the Faculty Book Club. It was reported that there had been a tremendous turnout with 18 for the Spring 2013 Faculty Book Club. The Faculty Book Club has been met with enthusiasm from its various members from different departments and educational backgrounds. Teaching Unprepared Students by Kathleen Gabriel was the book of choice for Spring 2013. Overall, the Faculty Book Club was successful and enjoyed by the faculty members. Faculty members who were not able to participate due to class schedules have questioned the availability of an online version of the Faculty Book Club. This is currently being investigated and will possibly begin in the Fall Semester 2013. You Say More Than You Think by Janine Driver will be the book of choice for the Fall Semester 2013. Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants by Marc Prensky will be the book of choice for the Spring Semester 2014.

Sally Byrd gave a report regarding the Student Book Club. It was reported that overall positive responses were received from participating students and book club leaders. However it was also reported that some of the book club leaders experienced disappointment due to diminishing numbers of participants as the semester progressed. Some suggestions given to improve attendance and participation included having more meetings, developing different discussion questions, possibly offering extra credit to students for participation.

Grace Megnet gave a report for the Information Bulletin Board Sub-committee. It was reported that the current bulletin boards across campus focused on student book clubs. However, during the Fall Semester 2013, the focus of the bulletin boards will be on the reading strategies being implemented (SQ3R, KWL, Selective Underlining/Annotation, Concept Definition Maps, Context/Content Clues, and Quizlet). It was reported that the Student Government Association had helped with the bulletin boards also.

Stephanie Armstrong gave a report for the Reading Strategies Sub-committee. It was reported that implementation teachers had been trained and everyone was “onboard” and enthusiastic about implementing the reading strategies. It was reported that many teachers were using SQ3R, KWL, Context/Content Clues, and Concept Definition Maps. Some teachers were using a single strategy or a combination of strategies. It was reported that Quizlet and Selective Underlining/Annotation were being utilized but not as much as the other strategies. It was suggested that underlining might not be used as much due to students being concerned about selling their book back to the book store after use. Grace Megnet commented that she was going to emphasize Selective Underlining/Annotation in her classes.

Chad Clark gave a report for the Reading Resource Sub-committee. It was reported that a list of links of links and learning websites had been created for use by teachers and students of LSCPA. It was reported that Kash Cox and Aaron Horne had helped with the additions to the quick links of the LSCPA website as well as the video demonstrating the Seahawk SOAR Reading Strategies. Kash Cox showed the committee how to navigate the LSCPA website using quick links. Kash also showed the committee the first episode of the Seahawk SOAR Reading Strategies.

1. Implementation Report (budget, QEP Boards, Faculty Development Days, implementation cycle)

Dr. Laura Stafford first thanked Stephanie Armstrong and Sally Byrd for their leadership with the Reading Strategies Sub-committee and the Student Book Club Sub-committee. Both are stepping down from their positions as chairs for these sub-committees. Chandra Brooks will now be the chair of the Reading Strategies Sub-committee and Zeb Lowe will be the chair of the Student Book Club sub-committee.

Dr. Laura Stafford gave an overview of the books to be utilized for the upcoming student book clubs.

FALL 2013 ***The Alchemist***Paul Coelho

SPRING 2014 ***Night*** Elie Weisel

FALL 2014 ***The Liars’ Club*** Mary Karr

SPRING 2015 ***If the Devil had a Wife*** Frank Mills, Rebecca Nugent

FALL 2015***Fahrenheit 451*** Ray Bradberry

SPRING 2016 ***Brave New World***Aldous Huxley

FALL 2016 ***Half Broke Horses***Jeannett Walls

SPRING 2017***Tuesday’s with Morrie***Mitch Albom

FALL 2017 ***The Last Lecture***Randy Pausch, Jeffrey Zaslow

Dr. Laura Stafford reported that the possible speaker for the student book club for Fall 2013 will need to use the Carl Parker Center rather than the Performing Arts Center. The possibility of having survivors of the holocaust speak on April 18, 2014 was discussed. An alternative idea of taking student book club members on a field trip to the Holocaust Museum in Houston, Texas was discussed as well. This would take place during student book club activities during Spring 2014 while reading Night by Elie Weisel.

It was also suggested to the advisory committee that book club meetings could take place on campus, but could also take place at off campus sites such as the Port Arthur Public Library.

Dr. Laura Stafford reported that new bulletin boards would not be purchased.

Dr. Laura Stafford also reported that Faculty Development for the Fall Semester 2013 would take place on August 21 and 22. A plan is in place for the training of new faculty. It was also reported that Kathleen Gabriel, author of Teaching Unprepared Students, will be one of the speakers at faculty development.

Dr. Laura Stafford discussed the lending bookshelf located on the first floor of the Student Center. Faculty has been donating books to be placed on the bookshelf and anyone interested can read the books. It has been a great success.

Dr. Laura Stafford also recognized Diana Crutchfield for her help with the informational bulletin boards.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By

Name & Signature