Seahawks SOAR Advisory Committee (Minutes for November 14, 2013)

Attendance

Laura Stafford, Co-Director of QEP Implementation; Jamie Clark, Chair of QEP Advisory Committee Charles Gongre, QEP Advisory Committee member; Allison Wright, QEP Advisory Committee member ;Chandra Brooks, Sub-Chair of Reading Strategies; Andrea Rodriguez, QEP Advisory Committee member; Grace Megnet, Sub-Chair of Information Boards

It was reported that Ben Stafford and Chad Clark were unable to attend due to attendance of other meetings. It was also reported that Zeb Lowe was unable to attend due to illness.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm. 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 tremendous turnout with 15 members for the Fall 2013 Faculty Book Club. The Faculty Book Club has been met with enthusiasm from its various members from different departments and educational backgrounds. You Say More Than You Think by Janine Driver was the book of choice for the Fall Semester 2013. Overall, the Faculty Book Club was successful and enjoyed by the faculty members.

Dr. Laura Stafford stood in for Zeb Lowe and gave a report regarding the Student Book Club. It was reported that overall positive responses were received from participating students and book club leaders. Six student book clubs were established with two meeting early in the morning, one at night, one in the Student Success Center in the afternoon, one in the Gates Memorial Library in the afternoon, and one utilizing Facebook. Facebook reported attendance of seven students during the first meeting, twenty two students during the second meeting, and four students during the third meeting. It was reported that overall the attendance of each group was greater at the first meetings compared to the third meetings. Suggestions have been made to possibly consider compressing the meetings and meeting over a few weeks rather than over three months. It was reported that each sponsor could establish his or her own method of meetings versus a uniform method and this could possibly lead to greater attendance. It was reported that the podcast of Paul Coelho, author of The Alchemist as well as Zeb Lowe’s presentation of Practicing Alchemy was a huge success with over eighty students in attendance. Door prizes were given away as well two nooks.

Grace Megnet gave a report for 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. It was reported that bulletin boards will be rotated from building to building during the Spring Semester 2014. It was reported that no new materials will be needed at this time for the bulletin boards. It was reported that Janet Polk has been a tremendous help with laminating and organizing materials for use with the bulletin boards.

Chandra Brooks gave a report for the Reading Strategies Sub-committee. An overview of the Faculty Development Days (August 20-21, 2013) was provided. The overview included reports from Drs. Ben and Laura Stafford regarding preliminary PSLO Alpha data, locating training videos on LSCPA-QuickLinks, and information regarding pre/post testing. The overview also included information regarding the guest speakers of Faculty Development Days. Kathleen Gabriel, author of Teaching Unprepared Students gave a presentation regarding strategies and principles of promoting success and retention of students in higher education. Zeb Lowe demonstrated the use of reading passages to promote critical thinking. Fall 2013 Ongoing Implementation includes the following:

* Dr. Laura Stafford encourages students of her on-line speech class to view reading strategy videos, included the URL on her class syllabi, and models mapping as a brainstorming strategy for speech topics
* Dr. Carol Barbay uses training videos as a research project opportunity
* ENGL 0301 & 0302 covers Note Taking & Highlighting, (i.e. Annotating), Outlining & Mapping (i.e. Timeline, Cluster Map, and Flow Chart), Context Clues, Reading Textbooks (i.e. SQ3R)
* Bulletin Boards – KWL Interactive (MMED), SOAR Reading Club Information Board (SSC), and Context Clues and Highlighting & Annotating Interactive/Presentation (PAC).

Other faculty and staff are incorporating various reading strategies into instruction across campus. For example, Richard Pollock reported using Quizlet to develop flashcards for his biology course, and Amber Woodard uses context clues and mapping in her composition course (HS). 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.

Grace Megnet also provided some inspiring news. She is currently using vocabulary development strategies in her classes and by the end of the semester students will have added over 250 new words to their vocabulary. It is reported that the students enjoy these activities and ask for the vocabulary words when entering the classroom.

Dr. Laura Stafford stood in for Chad Clark and 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 was continually updating the website and was doing a tremendous job. It was reported that the quick links and reading strategy videos would benefit new faculty and students. It was reported that Chad Clark is providing additional links to schools with similar programs.

1. Implementation and Assessment Report

Dr. Laura Stafford reports that the QEP budget is doing well. It was reported that money will be drawn from the budget during the Spring Semester 2014 in order to provide for a field trip to the Holocaust Museum in Houston, Texas. It was also reported that there are adequate supplies of material for use with the bulletin boards. It was reported that the Nelson Denny pre and post tests had been given during the Fall Semester 2013. It was reported that thirteen classes had implemented the Nelson Denny. It was reported that the only class unable to give the Nelson Denny was the online class. The Nelson Denny could not be given online due to copy right laws. The MARSI will be given during the Spring Semester 2014. The PSLO Alpha continues. At this time the baseline for the PSLO Alpha is approximately 31%. This is expected to improve with the continued use of reading and vocabulary strategies by faculty. A change without impact to the QEP budget was decided by the Co-Directors of Implementation and Assessment concerning the “cohort of 2013 incoming freshmen not participating in the experimental intervention” as discussed in the SOAR report on page 60. It was discovered that two things prevent us from including this group in the final analysis of the project. First, the courses selected did not have enough first time freshmen to separate them into the two cohort groups and this led us to determine additional courses of PSYC 1100 and EDUC 1100 should be added to the experimental group. Second, since all faculty were trained in the use of the six experimental strategies and encouraged to use them in their courses so that the MARSI data can be tracked in the spring semesters, we have eliminated a pure group of incoming freshmen that are not exposed to the strategies. It was decided that within the experimental cohort the study will track the Nelson-Denny scores of students who are incoming freshmen with no previous college experience and those who have had some previous college experience (developmental education, previous co-enrolled college level, or previous college level courses).

1. Spring Semester 2014 Plans

Jamie Clark reported that Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants by Marc Prensky will be the book of choice for the Spring Semester 2014 for the Faculty Book Club. This book has been suggested by Dan Walzer, Chair of the Commerical Music Department.

Dr. Laura Stafford reported that Night by Elie Weisel will be the book of choice for the Spring Semester 2014 for the Student Book Club. Participating book club members and sponsors will be eligible to attend a field trip to the Holocaust Museum in Houston, Texas on April 5, 2014. On April 7, 2014 a presentation by a representative of the Holocaust Museum will be held at the Lamar State College – Port Arthur Theatre. This will be open to the public.

The next Seahawk SOAR Advisor Council meeting was tentatively set for Tuesday, April 22, 2014. This meeting was adjourned at 3 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Name & Signature