

Senate Minutes: 9/29/2015

Dean O'Connell to talk about the Quality Enhancement Program. Ten years ago, the Spencer Center for Civic and Global Engagement was the QEP

QEP (Dean O'Connell)

A program to improve the quality of education every 10 years as part of accreditation process. Have to develop QEP through an inclusive process and it as to improve the educational experience of students. Began process last spring.

Ideas coalesced into two proposals:

- Quantitative literacy and reasoning
- Leadership development and professional development

Please encourage students to take the surveys that are going to be sent out shortly.

These are areas that have been identified for improvement and both ideas will be worked on no matter which proposal is selected.

BOLD - Professional Leadership Development (Dr. Usher)

- Students typically associate BOLD with the reworking of MBC 101 - It is not an extension of MBC 101 - entirely different layer of professional leadership
- Baldwin Opportunities for Leadership and Development (BOLD)
- Increasing awareness and skills preparation and ability to translate what you are doing with your liberal arts education
- Work with Vantage Point - new career services center (will be actual physical place on campus)
- Starts in freshman year (have started this already), will continue through your entire career at MBC
- Possibility of a co curricular transcript -- can present everything you have learnt in college professionally
- Idea of working with students the whole time instead of just during senior year
- Historic emphasis on leadership

Quantitative Literacy and Reasoning (Dr. Ruiz-Haas)

- Want students to be comfortable working with numbers and data
- Ability to solve and reason quantitative problems
- Understand and create sophisticated arguments that are backed up by quantitative data
- Clearly communicate these arguments
- This is different from math -- while math professors are essential in pushing this forward, all faculty will contribute to this plan
- Why Quantitative Reasoning?
 - has a framework that ties to everyday life:
 - practical (taxes, interest rates, etc),
 - civic (pollution levels, economic growth, health care, etc),
 - professional (read graphs, understand percentages and trends, etc)
 - cultural

- Have a strong necessity in MBC - entering students' SAT Math scores are 40 points below national average. When graduating, scores are still below national average.
- Also important to reinforce this as a women's college
- Goals:
 - Make students comfortable with quantitative data
 - Increase emphasis throughout campus culture (social media, BOLD, etc)
- Implementation:
 - Require a new 1 credit hour QL/QR course (similar to Information Literacy) -- can test out of it -- can also easily be done online
 - Have more classes be designated "Quantitative" (chemistry, physics, economics, sociology, etc) -- show that the skills are interdisciplinary
 - Quantitative certificate program
 - Quantitative Skills Learning Center - "Q Center"
 - Led by faculty member
 - Foster campus wide learning environment and activities
 - Promote outreach activities
 - Organize workshops and seminars
 - Sponsor Q Category in the Capstone Festival
- Assessment:
 - Senior Survey and NSSE
 - ETS Educational Profile
 - JMU QR test
 - Students completing the new INT Q course on time, more faculty involvement, etc.

Questions:

- Aaleyah Joe: What would be a way to work around the extra INT Q class if you're trying to graduate on time/early etc?
 - Dean O'Connell: testing out early will help with this. Class will also be individualized to add to the students' skills. And if you do it early enough, it will make it easier for you through the rest of your classes on campus. Classes
- Madison Miller: Will this new requirement be applied to all students across the board?
 - Dean O'Connell: It applies to students coming in. Not retroactive. If students wanted to, they could still take the class, but not a requirement.
- Shari Moody: Will gen eds be added to other specific classes?
 - Dr. Ruiz-Haas: Yes.
 - Dean O'Connell: It will be articulating classes that already contain that Q aspect. We can also add more of a Q component to certain classes.
 - Dr. Walker: Was on the committee because I come from the Humanities. Having this awareness and understanding will permeate the classes on campus. In my class, students do look at articles that include numbers and statistics -- students have to think about whether there are comparable quantities, think about how to

become a good consumer of statistical data. Know from experience that students also have trouble figuring out their own grades.

- Aaleyah Joe: How would the “Q Center” be set up?
 - Dean O’Connell: vision is that there will be a physical space that is the Q Center. There will be programs out of that center. Still in the concept phase. Students will be working on this as well. Big part of the message is that quantitative reasoning does only include math
 - Dr. Usher: also to increase confidence in these skill sets. Will permeate into several areas -- infographics, data, emails, etc.
 - Dean O’Connell: if women are impeded by their math anxiety, we need to fix that.
- Jaysn Chase: How the BOLD program work this students through their college life?
 - Dr. Usher: Vantage Point will work with students straight from freshman year. Vantage Point will have a visible head who works with students, go into classes. Professionalism is much broader than students realize, so it will be much larger than just resume workshops.
- Tralen Neal: Will the BOLD initiative be a class for students? Will it be very obvious during a student’s freshman year and slowly fade out?
 - Dr. Usher: Want to make sure that the impact does not fade out. Already have faculty approval for BOLD 201 at the sophomore level. Initial proposal also included a 301/401 component that is credit based.
 - Dean O’Connell: Part of QEP is to infuse the idea throughout campus. All this is to make sure that these ideas are at the forefront of people’s consciousness.
 - Dr. Usher: Much of these efforts are already underway. We just don’t see them as obviously.
 - Dean O’Connell: We want to make the students aware that they possess these skills.
- Layla Williams: What is the benefit of having a separate Q Center instead of having it under the BOLD?
 - Dean O’Connell: That might happen in terms of living it out, but we need the proposal in concrete, measurable terms will applying for accreditation. It’s a practical reason.
 - Dr. Ruiz-Haas: Regardless of what happens, both elements will be incorporated.
- Madison Miller: What will the co curricular transcript look like?
 - Dean O’Connell: Haven’t completely figured that out yet. It could either be on one transcript or two separate ones. Still have to talk to students, colleges that are already doing one of these two methods, see what is best for MBC
- Jaysn Chase: So there is a possibility that certain leadership positions on campus will get you credit?
 - Dean O’Connell: yes, in tiny amounts! Students will have to accomplish certain goals, and it will be certified on your transcript.
 - Jaysn Chase: So you will you receive a Pass/Fail grade?
 - Dean O’Connell: yes.
 - Dr. Usher: There will be specific goals that you will have to complete.

- Ciara McLaren: Are you thinking about having resources through BOLD to help students with graduate school?
 - Dean O’Connell: Q is not remedial. And yes, we understand that grad school is just as important as the professional field.
- Madison Miller: Will internships, etc rolled under BOLD?
 - Dean O’Connell: yes. Also want more students other than VWIL to pursue the leadership minor.

It is important to participate in discussions like this because these impact incoming classes greatly.

Reports from Senator Committee Chairs:

Deandra Wells, Laura Harmon - Mailroom Committee

- Asked about hours being changed
- Said that because the bookstore is no longer available, everything is being sent to the mailroom and they don’t have the staff and student worker strength to increase hours past 1-3 pm
- Is willing to accommodate students to send proxies with a note.

Shari Moody - Suggestion Boxes

- A lot of suggestion boxes have not made it to the dorms yet.
- Tevanah Charlemagne - talk to the RA about getting the word about getting the word out

Khabirah Matthews, Layla Williams - Student Employment Program

- Bra provision has been taken out
- Idea of “constantly proving oneself” - the position is seen as a stepping stone
- “Less money for more work” - budget cuts. But she has extra applications for students
- Chose steady rate of pay because people went over their cap (when given raises)
- Overall fund did not increase
- Students with two jobs - supervisors are responsible for filling in their hours
- Tax papers - papers have all the instructions

All senators on committees have to send in notes to Sharanya and cc Jazmine.

General Concerns:

Tevanah Charlemagne: don’t feel comfortable with the new Deming hours. I live in Tullidge and walking to Wenger and back is unsafe late at night.

Ciara McLaren: They will open Wenger for you if you show them an ID. Can they do the same thing for Deming?

Lisa Wells: working with Tom Byerley about these concerns. They do plan to talk to students before coming to a conclusion about access, closing times, etc. Want to look at all the concerns about different buildings, etc.

Deandra Wells: When will the computer lab in Pearce open?

Lilly Parker: The computer lab is not opening back up; there will be a cognitive lab there. And for those who live in the houses, the parking lot on Sycamore St should be only for the houses.

Valerie: Umoja and Lecasa have their own parking lots but a lot of people from Woodson and Spencer park there.

Announcements:

Tralen Neal: This week is Spirit Week! We want to celebrate the college. Wednesday is celebrate diversity and inclusivity. As student leaders, embrace this and talk about this around campus.

Lilly Parker: Having Celebrate MBC Creativity in the Pub from 7-10 pm. Will have food, novelty station dedicated to MBC. Come out!

Motion to adjourn: Sharanya Rao

Seconded.