

Shawnee State University AQIP Strategy Forum Participation

A team of Shawnee State University employees attended a Strategy Forum sponsored by the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP). Shawnee State's membership in AQIP has been adopted as the institutions method of maintaining accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. The Shawnee Team focused on refining the Action Projects that SSU will submit to AQIP as part of the institution's continuous quality improvement efforts.

The work of the team attending the Strategy Forum will be included in campus discussions about the Action Projects that will be submitted to AQIP by mid-December.

The projects under discussion include:

1. Improvements in Student Advising
 - Enhancements in advising procedures including faculty training sessions
 - Changes in advising structures with consideration of a University College
2. Scheduling Revisions for the Semester Calendar
 - Increased efficiency in room and facility use
 - Decreased class conflicts that lead to improved retention and graduation rate
3. Student Life Enhancements
 - Increased recreational and student life opportunities for SSU students
 - More space for student life (University Center renovation and increased recreational space)
4. Teaching and Learning Center for Faculty and Staff
 - Expand success of Faculty Learning Communities to a campus-wide professional development program
 - Improve communication systems to notify faculty and staff of professional development opportunities

The Shawnee Team included:

Rita Morris, President
Gail Ball, Board Member
Michael Field, Provost
Michael Fiske, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee
Ken Warfield, President, University Faculty Senate
Jared Shoemaker, Chair, University Administrative Assembly
Carol Sexton, Past Chair, University Staff Assembly
Kitty Linde, Professor, Medical Laboratory Technology
Martha Rader, Dean, College of Professional Studies
Cathy Mullins, Assistant to the Provost
David Todt, Associate Provost

Nine other first-year AQIP institutions attended the Strategy Forum. In addition, four institutions were attending the Strategy Forum for the second time after completing an initial round of Action Projects and a Systems Portfolio. The Shawnee State Team was able to review and comment on the Action Projects from other institutions. Peer review of the Shawnee Action Projects was received from the other institutions. Meeting with the advanced AQIP schools also gave the Shawnee Team the opportunity to understand the importance of the Systems Portfolio and other continuous quality approaches of AQIP.

The next steps for the AQIP process at Shawnee State include refinement of the Action Projects with input from the campus governance groups. Action Project Teams and Team Leaders will be assembled over the next two months. Work will begin soon on the Systems Portfolio which is the major AQIP accreditation document.



The Shawnee State University Team splint into four groups, one for each proposed action project. Carol Sexton, Martha Rader, and Ken Warfield shared the advising action project with other teams and received input from these peer institutions.

Michael Fiske and Kitty Linde reported on the proposed action project dealing with scheduling changes as Shawnee transitions to the semester calendar. They also heard about and critiqued proposed action projects from other institutions





Jared Shoemaker and Cathy Mullins discussed SSU's proposed action project dealing with student life and recreation with other institutions. The small group break-out sessions were led by AQIP facilitators.

Ken Warfield and Gail Ball complete an affinity chart that was part of an exercise to see the connections between institutional processes and the proposed SSU action projects.



In addition to break-out sessions, the Shawnee Team met to complete a number of exercises aimed at refining our proposed action projects and understanding the AQIP process of continuous improvement. One of the exercises was to "vision" SSU five to seven years into the future. The product of this exercise was a newspaper front page produced by the Team. The group created a page that included a lead story about The Ohio State University following SSU's lead as OSU converted to semesters.

