



Ray Ferrero, Jr.
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: ACADEMIC DEANS
FROM: RAY FERRERO, JR., PRESIDENT
RE: APPROVAL OF QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN
DATE: NOVEMBER 2, 2005

I am pleased to announce that a University Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) has been adopted. The plan, **Enhancing Student Academic Engagement**, will provide for greater student academic engagement and will include three significant components, (a) increasing active participation in faculty scholarship and research, (b) increasing academic dialogue and discussion among faculty and students, and (c) increasing and enhancing experiences gained through internships, clinical rotations, and other practica.

This plan is the product of a number of activities and reflects the efforts of many people and groups, including the Board of Trustees, SACS Reaffirmation Leadership Team, Council of Deans, and various faculty and administrative groups. It takes into account a number of the significant factors discussed thus far, including the need for an engaged student learner; an emphasis on student outcomes/learning; sufficient flexibility afforded academic centers; and the need to be specific and operational in terms of our evaluations and interventions. The attached framework for the plan reflects these considerations.

As Deans, several important follow-up responses are needed relatively quickly.

First, each academic unit should submit the name of an individual who will

- work to operationalize the QEP within the academic unit,
- serve as the academic unit coordinator for the plan,
- ensure that the academic unit responds in a timely and appropriate manner to the QEP requirements, and
- serve as the academic unit's representative to the QEP committee.

Names should be submitted to my office on or before November 11, 2005.

Second, after discussion among your academic leadership, a determination must be made as to which of the components of the **Enhanced Student Academic Engagement Plan** your academic unit will participate. As a point of clarification, units may engage in one,

one, two, or all three of the plan's components. Choices of components should be submitted to my office by November 30, 2005. Wells Singleton and Amon Seagull, chair and recorder, respectively, for the QEP will serve as resource people to assist you in making this decision.

At this point, I believe we have a realistic and relevant plan for quality enhancement. I am confident that in the near future we will effectively implement this plan and better develop our educational programs, while satisfying an important SACS requirement.

Finally, I would like to thank Ron Chenail, Dian Moorhouse, Wells Singleton, George Hanbury, Amon Seagull, and the entire SACS Reaffirmation Leadership Team, as well as the many other participants who worked on developing our QEP to this point.

CC: Chancellor, Provosts, and Vice Presidents