

A Proposal for Richard Bland College's topic for its Quality Enhancement Plan

For: President McNeer

From: the RBC Steering Committee

Presented by: Katherine Snavely, Chair Steering Committee, and Daniel Zelinski,
Chair Quality Enhancement Plan Development Committee (QEPDC)

Date: 11/20/2006

The Steering Committee recommends the development of a Quality Enhancement Plan centering on the implementation of a First Year Experience Program.

The above recommendation was unanimously approved by the Steering Committee, 11/6/2006. It was proposed to the Steering Committee by the Quality Enhancement Plan Development Committee with the approval of the Planning and Review Committee, based on results of a campus-wide dialogue on the topic.

The QEPDC will engage in the development the specifics of a plan, articulating specific components for a First Year Experience Program (FYE). The process leading to this plan will include the following steps:

1. The QEP chair and the provost discuss the budgetary implications of possible components of a FYE (November 2006 – February 2008).
2. The QEPDC researches FYEs (November 2006 – February 2007), including review of:
 - RBC's internal survey & workshop data on FYE and the RBC OASIS program
 - FYEs at our major receiving institutions
 - FYEs at VCCs
 - Major / successful FYEs at other schools
 - Existing scholarly research on FYEs
 - SCHEV mandates
3. The QEPDC identifies major components of its proposal for RBC's FYE (February 2007).
4. The QEPDC constructs a detailed outline for RBC's QEP, articulating a FYE consisting of the components it identified and their budgetary implications (March 2007).
5. The Steering Committee considers approving the QEPDC's proposed outline for the QEP (April 2007).
6. The President reviews the proposed QEP outline (May 2007). If the President rejects the outline, the QEPDC will make necessary revisions.

Guidelines & Constraints

Nationally, First Year Experience Programs (FYE) have become extremely popular at both 4-year and 2-year institutions of higher education. All of these programs aim at *providing new students with resources, knowledge, & skills beneficial to succeeding at college*. However, there is a broad range of vehicles that different institutions use for realizing this goal. For a successful QEP, we must filter these examples through SACS's requirement that a QEP be focused on *improving student learning* & RBC's mission to *prepare students to transfer*. Nevertheless, this still leaves a broad array of academic, support, & advising changes that could comprise RBC's FYE. [N.b. SACS's requirements for the QEP are currently under review & may be changing (slightly) in December 2006.]

Candidates that the QEPDC will be considering as possible components of RBC's FYE include (but may not be limited to):

- An extended orientation program
- Workshops / counseling on selecting a major / career
- Developmental courses
- Tutoring program
- Mentoring program
- Study skills workshops
- A Freshman (academic) Seminar
- An "Intro to College" course (covering logistics of navigating through college)
- An "Information technology / Library" course
- Service Learning program
- Pre-enrollment summer programs

I endorse the development of a QEP centering on a FYE.

I do not endorse the development of a QEP centering on a FYE.

James B. McNeer (signed)

11/20/06

Dr. James McNeer, President Richard Bland College

Date