ATTN: FACULTY
Texas A&M University-Kingsville

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

for the
Quality Enhancement Plan:
Student Engagement

Academic Year 2010-2011

At Texas A&M University-Kingsville, our official Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is a Student Engagement Plan. All faculty members are invited to submit proposals for this Student Engagement Plan. Each proposal should describe an idea for a specific undergraduate course to be offered during Fall 2010, Spring 2011 or Summer 2011. A Student Engagement course can be a modification of an existing course, a Special Topics course, or an entirely new course. Preference will be given to general education courses. Other undergraduate courses will be considered. The course must involve student engagement in civic, research or professional activities to an extent that surpasses present offerings for that topic. Proposals may request financial support to develop or deliver the course. Support may include such items as release time, travel funds for faculty or students, or course-related operating money. Details regarding the purpose of the Student Engagement Plan and the procedures for filing a proposal are provided below.

The overall goal of the Student Engagement Plan is to Improve Student Success through Discipline-based Engagement. The objectives in support of this goal are to: (1) provide and evaluate discipline-based civic, professional, or research engagement courses, and (2) provide faculty development in support of student engagement.

Student success means that undergraduate students demonstrate

- mastery of the general education curriculum at levels appropriate to the baccalaureate degree,
- mastery of their major area field of study curriculum at levels appropriate to the baccalaureate degree,
- critical thinking including integration and synthesis, evaluation, problem-solving skills appropriate to an individual achieving the baccalaureate degree,
- civic awareness and ethical responsibility, and
- preparedness to engage in continued learning experiences following completion of the baccalaureate degree.

A Student Engagement course need not address every aspect of student success as defined here.
**Engagement** means diligent and meaningful participation in civic, professional, or research activities. Discipline-based engagement refers to engagement occurring in specially designated Student Engagement courses consistent with the expertise and discipline of the instructor.

**The Student Engagement Plan includes three general types of engagement.**

- A *civic engagement* course might require student participation in a community project. Courses designed around the concept of *service learning* will generally fit the Student Engagement Plan concept of civic engagement.
- A *professional engagement* course might address an actual problem or situation encountered in the students’ intended professions.
- A *research engagement* course might require the hands-on discovery of new knowledge, or new ways of considering knowledge.

**The proposal format** is flexible but should include the following elements:

- Identification of the course involved
- Identification of the faculty member(s) directing or participating in the course
- A description of the engagement activity or activities to be employed
- A tentative syllabus for the proposed course
- A timeline during which the course will be developed and implemented
  - Example: The course will be developed in Fall 2010. It will be offered in Spring 2011 and subsequent spring semesters.
- A brief description of assessment measures to be used to evaluate student success
  - Example: Immediate measures of student success will include course-embedded testing and student portfolios. Continuing measures will include student persistence in the field, student graduation rates, student performance on the standardized exit exam, and other institutional measures.
- A budget that itemizes resources needed and briefly explains the need for each requested item
  - Example: I request $3000 for a part-time instructor to allow myself ¼ release time for Fall 2010, $2500 for myself and my students to travel to a professional conference in Houston, and $500 to buy widgets for the students.
- A statement indicating the amount (if any) of matching funds the academic college or department will contribute towards the first offering of the course; and a statement regarding the prospects for continued funding of the course
  - Example 1: The college committed $1000 towards the first offering of this journalism course. The local newspaper publisher has expressed interest in providing a modest amount of support for the course on an on-going basis.
  - Example 2: The department agreed to provide $500 for the first course offering and tentatively committed to continuing this level of support indefinitely.
Proposals will be evaluated based on the following attributes.

- Capability and enthusiasm of faculty member(s) leading the course
- Appropriateness of the course idea and perceived probability of success
- Commitment to continue a successful course beyond the first offering
- Willingness to engage in rigorous assessment of student outcomes in cooperation with the Office of Institutional Research
- Availability of college (or department) matching funds, and the prospects for continued funding
- Course level (must be undergraduate)

Submit the proposal to your Dean by February 26, 2010. If the proposal includes a commitment of funds from an academic unit, the chair or dean should provide a memo so indicating. Deans should forward recommended proposals to the QEP Director on or before March 5, 2010. The QEP Director, with the advice of the QEP Advisory Committee, will make the final selection of QEP courses no later than April 2010.

Administrative support is available for assistance in formulating the proposal and for assistance in managing the project. Dr. Duane Gardiner (QEP Director) is available to meet with faculty, address questions and concerns, and assist with budgeting and assessment measures. Feel free to contact him:

- Dr. Gardiner    phone: 593-2170    email: duane.gardiner@tamuk.edu
- Also, check out the QEP website at http://qep.oir.tamuk.edu.