

**QEP Committee Minutes**  
**Friday, February 23, 2024**  
**3:15 p.m.**

Members Present: Piers Rawling (Chair), Philosophy; Casey Dozier, Career Center; Ashley Bush, Business; Stephen Tripodi, Social Work; Dawn Carr, Sociology; Savoya Joyner, Neuroscience; Latika Young, Undergraduate Studies; Gale Etschmaier, University Libraries; Maxine Jones, History; Jorge Galeano Cabral, Engineering; Jorge Piekarewicz, Physics; and Mark Riley, Graduate School.

Members Excused: Toby Park-Gaghan, Education Policy; Justin Kennemur, Chemistry and Biochemistry; Jayne Standley, Music; Michelle Rambo-Roddenberry, Engineering; Beth Hodges, Research; Jim Whyte, Nursing; Cathy Levenson, Biomedical Sciences; and Sindy Chapa, Communication.

Staff Present: Ruth Storm, Provost's Office; Robert Bradley, Provost's Office; Sara Hamon, Provost's Office; Monoka Venters, Provost's Office; Leslie Richardson, Center for the Advancement of Teaching; Galiya Tabulda, Provost's Office; James Beck, Graduate School; Neelam Bharti, University Libraries; and Emily Leventhal, GSRC Director.

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The Chair convened the meeting and indicated three items would comprise the agenda: Distribution of QEP and News Article, Initiatives Update, and the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee Visit. The committee began with introductions and updates, with Dr. Sara Hamon talking about the Graduate Student Resource Center (GSRC). She informed the committee that the search for the GSRC director was complete and introduced Dr. Emily Leventhal as the GSRC Director. Dr. Leventhal spoke about her time at the Florida Legislature and her passion for working with doctoral students. Dr. Casey Dozier then gave updates regarding the Career Center, including launching the Beyond the Professoriate platform, Beyond the Graduate School, and sending updates to graduate students about these programs. She also informed the committee that the Doctoral Career Coordinator and Graduate Liaison position had been filled by Nicole Lily, who has worked with the Career Center previously.

Dr. Gale Estchmaier reviewed the library workshop schedule for citation management, literature review, and data visualization. Dr. Leslie Richardson spoke about the progress of the Center for the Advancement in Teaching (CAT): there are 41 students enrolled in the Teaching Assistant (TA) professional development program. They have had several workshops and will continue to have more information sessions throughout the semester as there has been more interest than spaces in the first sessions. There seems to be quite a lot of student interest and they will be offering programming over the summer, with mainly remote options. Beginning in the summer and continuing into the fall, CAT will be holding at least one workshop a month for each of the five categories of the program.

Dean Mark Riley asked James Beck to give an update on GradPhile. Mr. Beck said that ITS is building a server for GradPhile so that it will be university-wide, and Tom Houpt has been given more access to continue branching out the platform. They have several programs in mind for the initial expansion, including Biomedical Sciences, Arts and Sciences, and STEM fields. The Committee was informed that the search for the business analyst position for GradPhile is still ongoing.

Dr. Ruth Storm discussed the upcoming Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Reaffirmation On-Site visit. She provided the current tentative schedule for the visit and biographies for the members of the On-Site Committee including the chair of the On-Site committee Dr. William McDonald and the QEP Lead Evaluator Dr. Suzanne Barbour. The committee then reviewed the five components of standard 7.2 of the SACSCOC Accreditation Standards. It was explained that the Reaffirmation team will be checking to see if Florida State University (FSU) is in compliance with standard 7.2 and may also provide recommendations for strengthening the QEP. The committee then went over the schedule for each day of the Reaffirmation Visit week, the member placements for discussion groups, and the expectations for the visit.

A question was raised about whether the accreditors will ask questions about student perspectives. Dr. Storm said they would be looking for doctoral students to invite to a luncheon with the On-Site Committee members and any recommendations should be sent. Another question was raised about deferring questions, and Dr. Storm reassured the committee that this is fine as the reaffirmation team will be interested in the thought processes that went into creating the QEP. Dr. Storm then talked about the creation of icons for both the QEP and GSRC. Members wondered whether the QEP icon could be put on the FSU website home page or be in the question of the week on student, staff, and faculty portals. Dr. Storm suggested Dr. Riley could assist in spreading information about the QEP to graduate students as he is the Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Storm went over what would be most helpful in the time leading up to and during the Reaffirmation visit, including having QEP members thoroughly understand the QEP and be prepared for questions. It was brought up that the SACSCOC On-site committee will meet with President McCullough and the Cabinet before they leave.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and motioned for the Committee to adjourn at 4:04 p.m.

Handouts:

Quality Enhancement Plan

Florida State University News Article: "Florida State University develops bold plan for advancing doctoral education" <https://news.fsu.edu/news/university-news/2024/02/16/florida-state-university-develops-bold-plan-for-advancing-doctoral-education/>

SACSCOC On-Site Reaffirmation Visit Schedules March 16-21. 2024

On-site Committee Member Biographies

University Library Workshop Spreadsheet