

# SACS Reaffirmation and the QEP



- Introduction and Welcome – Kay Jordan, Joe Scartelli
- Administrative Support: Personnel
- SACS Reaffirmation Overview – Rick Slavings
- QEP Overview – Steve Lerch

# Reaffirmation Process and Timeline



- RU is a Track B, Level 5 institution
- As a Track B Institution, process ends in December 2012
- Two Major Components: Certification of Compliance and QEP

# Key Dates



- September 12, 2011: Certification of Compliance
- Off-site Review: November 1-4, 2011
- Early February, 2012: Focused Report and Draft QEP due
- March 27-29, 2012: On-site Review
  - 3 day agenda

# Key Dates Continued



- August 29, 2012: Follow-up Report Due
- December, 2012 annual meeting: Decision
- November, 2013: Last possible due date for any 1<sup>st</sup>-year monitoring reports
- November, 2014: Last possible due date for any 2<sup>nd</sup>-year monitoring reports
- Questions???

# 2002 Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)



- RU was one of 8 QEP pilot institutions
- Selection of 2002 QEP theme influenced by participation in NSSE
- Dissatisfaction with 2000 RU NSSE results led to theme: “Enhancing Student Engagement”
- 2002 QEP is posted at <http://www.radford.edu/~irpa/qep/QEPWorkingDraft28Nov01.pdf>

# Goal of 2002 QEP: Enhance Each of Five Benchmarks of Student Engagement



## Five Benchmarks of Student Engagement:

- Level of Academic Challenge
- Active and Collaborative Learning
- Student-Faculty Interaction
- Enriching Educational Experiences
- Supportive Learning Environment

# But . . .Our Reach Exceeded Our Grasp



- Each benchmark could have led to a separate QEP theme
- Eventually, we narrowed focus to unit level
- We were not alone: SACS indicated that most institutions were overly ambitious
- Revised QEP guidelines stress importance of “institutional capability” [to achieve desired QEP outcomes]

# We Have Made Progress



- Evidence exists that units have seen improvements in their students' engagement
- Most striking benchmark: student-faculty interaction, especially in scholarly and creative collaborations



# Creation of the 2012 QEP



- Three dimensions of QEP creation
  1. Selection of a theme/topic/focus (by early spring 2011)
  2. Developing/writing the QEP (calendar year 2011; due to SACS early February 2012)
  3. Implementation of the QEP (spring 2012-spring 2022)

# Stage 1: Selection of the QEP Theme/Topic/Focus



- Must keep 3 criteria in mind; QEP must be
  - Directed toward student learning
  - Consonant with the RU mission
  - Able to be implemented by RU
- Thus, QEP should expand upon some aspect of student learning in which RU is already invested.  
Possibilities:
  - One of five dimensions of student engagement
  - Another aspect of student learning that fits with the RU mission

# Selection of the QEP Topic (cont'd)



- QEP Topic selection timeline:
  - Today's Forum
  - Discussion within departments, schools, colleges *etc.*
  - Campus workshop on November 16
  - Discussion in Senate: November 16 through early Spring Semester
  - Recommendation from Senate to the Provost
  - Recommendation from Provost to President
  - Goal: QEP topic will be identified before on-campus interviews of Provost candidates

# Stage 2: Developing/Writing the QEP



- Representative group of faculty (method TBD by Faculty Senate) will serve as QEP Development Team. Team will also include representative(s) from Student Affairs and possibly other University divisions
  - Steve Lerch will work with team and provide oversight as consultant
  - Joe King will be ongoing administrative liaison
  - Pat Shoemaker will be closely involved as SACS Liaison in both the QEP and Certification of Compliance

# Developing the QEP (cont'd)



- QEP development timeline:
  - Identification of members of the team by early spring 2011
  - Preliminary information gathering (including campus forums) and writing through spring and summer 2011
  - Final work and writing, including more campus-wide feedback opportunities, through fall 2012
  - “Working Draft” of QEP submitted to SACS in early February 2012

# Implementing the QEP



- Representative group of faculty (method TBD by Faculty Senate) will serve as QEP Implementation Team. (Members may also have served on Development Team.) Team will also include representative(s) from Student Affairs and possibly other University divisions
- Implementation team will be responsible for working with campus community through 2022 to ensure the QEP is implemented and its outcomes assessed



**Questions?**