

QEP Topic Conversations: Faculty Assembly Curriculum Committee (04.03.09)

- It was suggested that there be some interdisciplinary component in the students' curriculum, perhaps in their junior or senior year, wherein they might address a common problem such as reducing infant mortality.
- The importance of inter-disciplinarity was again stressed, and this as it is tied to CBU's mission; perhaps focus on ill- or under-prepared first semester students, which would obviously improve retention. The success of such inter-disciplinarity is, of course, related to the students' possessing basic communication skills (verbal and written).
- One participant suggested that, with respect to concern for and/or about the overall level of preparation of many of our incoming students, perhaps we should consider some sort of "bridge college" or preparatory program for which students could receive financial assistance in the form of scholarships; faculty members involved in such a "college" or program would obviously need to be fairly compensated.
- How can we encourage our students to aspire to academic excellence? How can we inspire in them a love of learning and intellectual curiosity? One approach may be to encourage student involvement in, for example, professional associations, etc.
- One non-negotiable in all of these conversations regarding possible QEP topics must be an emphasis on our Lasallian identity; it must be a key component in whatever topic we ultimately settle on as a community. Additionally, there needs to be greater intention and attention given to necessary and logical connections from one course to the next (e.g., more cumulative assessments). Tied to this would be a focus on elevating the academic atmosphere in all of our programs; not only would this improve CBU's learning culture, but it would also aid in retention.

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