Minutes
Committee on Academic Quality
October 30, 2008


After introductions, the minutes from the last meeting were approved. Bill then described the status of current initiatives: Pictures in Banner is awaiting a meeting by Joe Moreau, Andy Westfall, and Mike Flaherty to discuss legal issues. Bill presented a statement calling for an orientation for non-full time faculty; several edits were suggested. There was then a short discussion on how to initiate a campus-wide discussion on teaching.

Next, student expectations were discussed. Bill presented a document from Compass titled “Using Targeting Strategies to Bridge the Communications Gap with New Students.” It uses the Noel-Levitz RMS Survey, which is given to incoming freshman. John remarked that its clustering looked like how firms target different groups to sell goods. He went on to mention that he uses a variation of this in his classes – he’s noticed that males perk up when he uses examples from the sports business. Richard wondered if there were really five groups (i.e. how were the clusters determined?). A discussion ensued on advising (since the survey came from freshman advising). John asked if any of us had responded to FSSE (Faculty Survey of Student Engagement) and none of us had. Sue then wondered about how to engage faculty with this and similar data on our students (i.e. NSSE, FSSE, and SUNY SOS). Pat then suggested that we invite Mehran to talk about these surveys and Sue suggested that we do this joint with COLT; a potential time and date was suggested.

Fall Break was briefly discussed as this issue is active in Faculty Assembly. It was quickly determined that the research behind it will be conducted by Jim Nichols and discussion moved to the next topic.

Next we discussed a common campus-wide classroom assessment. It was suggested that it be run by the Assessment Coordinator, but Steve expressed his qualms. He argued that assessment is best done directly and evaluations are an indirect assessment. Bill added that if results were public, it will be more difficult to get faculty buy-in. Sue wondered about having intellectually disengaged students evaluating faculty.

The meeting then adjourned.