

Open Pathway

Quality Initiative Proposal Review Form

Date of Review: 10/10/12

Name of Institution: Wichita State University

State: Kansas

Institutional ID: 1304

Reviewers: Chris Cantwell, Dean, Academic and Student Support Services
Illinois Eastern Community Colleges
Paula Carlson, Vice President for Mission
St. Olaf College

Review Categories and Findings

I. Sufficiency of the Initiative's Scope and Significance

- ◆ Potential for significant impact on the institution and its academic core
- ◆ Alignment with the institution's mission and vision
- ◆ Connection with the institution's planning processes
- ◆ Evidence of significance and relevance at this time
- ◆ Potential to improve and sustain institutional and educational quality

Finding:

The Quality Initiative proposal demonstrates acceptable scope and significance.

The Quality Initiative proposal does not demonstrate acceptable scope and significance.

Rationale and Comments:

Wichita State University's Quality Initiative, a Graduation Partnership, is an ambitious initiative to improve overall student success which has the potential for significant impact on the institution both academically and financially. The Graduation Partnership is aligned with the institution's mission and is an outgrowth of the University's participation in the Foundations of Excellence (FoE) self-study process and is linked to WSU's strategic planning process.

This proposed Quality Initiative has the potential for significant impact on WSU's long-term retention and graduation rates which will contribute to sustaining institutional and educational quality.

II. Clarity of the Initiative's Purpose

- ◆ Clear purposes and goals reflective of the scope and significance of the initiative
- ◆ Defined milestones and intended goals
- ◆ Clear processes for evaluating progress
- ◆ Comprehensive plan for accomplishing the initiative and achieving the goals

Finding:

The Quality Initiative proposal demonstrates clarity of purpose.

The Quality Initiative proposal does not demonstrate clarity of purpose.

Rationale and Comments:

The Quality Initiative has specific goals, action items, and a feasible timeline as well as a formative and summative evaluation process structure which will analyze data collected and evaluate the results of the initiative.

III. Evidence of Commitment to and Capacity for Accomplishing the Initiative

- ◆ Commitment of senior leadership
- ◆ Commitment and involvement of key people and groups
- ◆ Sufficiency of the human, financial, technological, and other resources
- ◆ Alignment of resources to the implementation plan and timeline
- ◆ Defined plan for integrating the initiative into the ongoing work of the institution and sustaining its results
- ◆ Clear understanding of and capacity to address potential obstacles

Finding:

The Quality Initiative proposal demonstrates evidence of commitment and capacity.

The Quality Initiative proposal does not demonstrate evidence of commitment and capacity.

Rationale and Comments:

There is strong commitment to this Quality Initiative by the Provost who is the senior administrator on campus charged with student success efforts. The initiative is a collaborative effort that will involve faculty, staff, and students throughout the University community.

The university demonstrates a commitment to the initiative with allocated resources to provide the capacity for accomplishing the initiative. The university has developed a clear, comprehensive structure for assessing work on the initiative as it moves forward. The Retention Council will serve a crucial function in assuring the initiative's success.

IV. Appropriateness of the Timeline for the Initiative

- ◆ Consistency with intended purposes and goals
- ◆ Alignment with the implementation of other institutional priorities
- ◆ Reasonable implementation plan for the time period

Finding

The Quality Initiative proposal demonstrates an appropriate timeline.

The Quality Initiative proposal does not demonstrate an appropriate timeline.

Rationale and Comments:

The Quality Initiative proposal timeline is appropriate, reasonable, and aligned with the university's work in improving student success as a part of the Kansas Board of Regents strategic plan for Kansas' higher education system with a goal to increase retention and graduation rates of first-time, full-time freshman 10% by 2020.

V. General Observations and Recommended Modifications: (Panel members may provide considerations and suggested modifications that the institution should note related to its proposed Quality Initiative.)

The panel has no suggestions for modifications to the proposal. This Quality Initiative proposal is challenging and substantial and will contribute to the overall student success at Wichita State University.

Figure 2 lays out key dates for WSU's Quality Initiative and describes the development process in the section labeled "Semester-based Formative/Summative Evaluation." The final goals for the initiative are clearly articulated in the proposal. We observe that establishing intermediary goals for the period 2012-16 could be an effective means of supporting the formative/summative evaluation process described as occurring during this time.

The programs listed as key pieces of the initiative focus to a great extent on retention from year 1 to year 2, with the goal of raising this retention rate from 70% to 80% by 2016. The proposal also indicates of goal of increasing WSU's graduation rate from 40% to 50%. As the Graduation Partnership program begins to result in increases in the year1 to year 2 retention rate, there may be a need also to address later points at which retention is identified as a concern for WSU's progress in reaching its goal of increasing its graduation rate.

One potential obstacle mentioned as a challenge in reaching the goals of the Graduation Partnership initiative is faculty and staff support of retention efforts. The retention grant program established by the Provost with an initial

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allocation of \$100,000 for faculty grants to support Graduation Partnership programming appears likely to help address that potential challenge. The proposal alludes to continued work that will address this potential obstacle as the initiative progresses, and we observe that this work can result in important support among faculty and staff for the initiative.

VI. Conclusion:

Approve the proposed Quality Initiative with or without recommended minor modifications. No further review required.

Request resubmission of the proposed Quality Initiative

Rationale and Expectations if Requesting Resubmission

Timeline and Process for Resubmission (the Commission staff will add this section if the recommendation is for resubmission)