

Input on Developing the QEP Focus
Submitted by The Mathematics Department
March 23, 2007

Please prepare your response in writing to the four identified statements. Limit your response to TWO handwritten or typed pages.

S1. Name up to three environmental factors that positively impact student learning at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) and that you believe should be celebrated and supported.

- R1.1. PVAMU'S rich history
- R1.2. Paraprofessional Experiences
- R1.3. Service Learning

S2. Name up to three factors that negatively impact student learning at PVAMU and that you believe need urgent attention and support.

- R2.1. Tensed professional climate
- R2.2. Lack of academic communication among students, faculty and professional staff
- R2.3. Lack of faculty training and research start-up

S3. For each of the factors cited in item 2 above, describe the strategies you would propose to affect change and thereby improve student learning.

R3.1. *Strategies:*

- R3.1.1. Re-think faculty evaluation versus merit raise.
- R3.1.2. Faculty teaching workload and research requirements with little or no student involvement disregards the academic growth of upper level students.
- R3.1.3. Re-think the Student Opinion Survey - enrollment and levels of student satisfaction increase at the expense of student learning and program quality.

R3.2. *Strategies:*

- R3.2.1. Develop lines of academic communication between students, faculty and professional staff.
- R3.2.2. Institute a University-wide Certified Peer Tutors and Mentor Program with College/Department/Faculty responsible for the training and assignment of students.
- R3.2.3. Student at both ends of the learning spectrum benefit from certified peer tutoring and mentoring.

R3.3. *Strategies:*

- R3.3.1. Provide continuous training for faculty to create and maintain new and proven learning environments.
- R3.3.2. Provide opportunities and/or release time for faculty to increase their research efforts with student involvement.

S4. For each proposed strategy outlined in item 3 above, describe the evidence that could provide proof that student learning improved.

R4.1. *Evidence:*

R4.1.1. The results of a carefully developed survey administered to faculty.

R4.1.2. Improved student scores on national assessments of the university core.

R4.1.3. Positive change in student beliefs about their responsibilities as learners.

R4.2. *Evidence:*

R4.2.1. Decrease in the number of students on academic probation.

R4.2.2. Increase student critical thinking ability.

R4.2.3. Increase in the number of students graduating in 4 years and in 4-6 years.

R4.2.4. Increase the number of honor graduates.

R4.3. *Evidence:*

R4.3.1. An increase in student scores on capstone and professional examinations.

R4.3.2. An increase in the number of PVAMU graduates entering graduate and professional schools.

R4.3.3. An increase in the number applied and basic research grants.