NCA&T’s QEP: Your Voice Matters

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) is North Carolina A&T State University’s accrediting agency. When an alumnus or alumna applies for admission to a graduate school at another university, that university will check to see if A&T has maintained its regional accreditation. Whether or not a university is regionally accredited is also a criterion that institutions must meet in order for their students to qualify for federal financial aid. Therefore, it is very important that A&T maintain its accredited status. A&T must get reaccredited every 10 years. The process is referred to as reaffirmation of accreditation. The University is currently preparing for reaffirmation, and it is important that the student body takes an active roll. So far more than 700 students have participated by completing a survey about the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a new SACS requirement, and four student groups from across the University participated in small focus groups regarding the QEP.

What’s a QEP

A QEP is a new SACS requirement in which North Carolina A&T State University demonstrates that it can take input from the broader University community, existing data, the University’s strategic plan and mission, and develop and implement a project aimed at improving some specific aspect of student achievement of learning outcomes or improve something about the learning environment.

Background

Last year the QEP Committee conducted nominal group process meetings with all schools and colleges in order to solicit faculty, staff, and administrator input into what could be improved about student achievement or the learning environment. The Committee also conducted student and staff focus groups and administered a campus-wide student survey. More than 400 faculty, staff, and administrators participated and more than 700 students provided input. Alumni also provided some input.

More Help Is Needed

In order to get more help from you regarding what the QEP should be for the University, the QEP Committee is soliciting your input further by conducting an “Importance-Performance” rating assessment. This assessment will compare what aspects of student achievement or the learning environment you think are important to how well you think the University is addressing those aspects. Those aspects that are of higher importance and lower performance may end up being the focus of the actual QEP. After the data collected with this assessment are analyzed, the Committee will return to the faculty and departments, share pertinent University data, teach the faculty the criteria for what makes an acceptable QEP, and have them conceptualize scenarios of what the final idea for the QEP should be. Once the Committee collects that final “scenario” input, it will make a recommendation on behalf of the University community as to what the final QEP should be.

When called upon, the QEP Committee hopes that you will participate one more time in providing valuable input. If you would like to have a QEP presentation made for your student group and have your group participate in the “Importance-Performance” rating assessment, please email Dr. Vincent Childress at childres@ncat.edu.