Critical Thinking Committee Minutes for the 1/25/2017

Attending: David Gribbin, Jimmy Wedincamp, Courtney Joiner, Dee McKinney, Florenta Sega, Mary Waalkes

We approved the minutes from the November 30, 2016 teleconference.

David Gribbin stated that the QEP report was accepted by SACS and congratulated Courtney and Val for their work on the report. He quoted the text of the SACS finding as follows: “The institution has adequately described the initial goals and intended outcomes of its QEP, discussed the limited changes made to the QEP, discussed the impact on student learning and/or the environment supporting student learning, and described what the institution has learned as a result of the QEP experience.” David noted that while this officially ends our mandated QEP efforts, we will continue to promote critical thinking at EGSC.

David went on to address the budget which he had divided into three topics. First, the budget process comes under David Gribbin’s office, and will initially be addressed with other offices at a February 15, 2017 Academic Affairs meeting. Second, the various offices will present their budgets individually to Dr. Boehmer on March 1, with David meeting with Dr. Boehmer in the afternoon. Finally, David noted that $2500 is our budget for the Connections 5 conference. This breaks down as $1000 for the speaker, $300 for food, $400 for promotion, and $800 to cover miscellaneous expenses.

Jimmy Wedincamp noted that he will contact Dr. Lance Durden and ask him to be our keynote speaker. He believes that $500 would be acceptable to Dr. Durden as he lives in the area.

David asked Jimmy to offer Dr. Durden $500, understanding that this amount can increase if needed. David also noted that the conference has not lost money, though it is not a money maker either.

Jimmy stated that he would contact Dr. Durden today, and also said that he has sent a flier on the conference to the Georgia Southern University Biology Department.

Courtney mentioned that the deadline for proposals is in September so that there is plenty of time to get presenters.

Jimmy said that he will try to interest professors in Chemistry and Geography at GSU to present at the conference.

David said that he will work on the website by contacting Victor regarding setting it up.

Courtney said that she has plenty of fliers and can give them to anyone attending a conference.

Jimmy asked for a brief rundown on the expectations for Dr. Durden, and Courtney said that last year the speaker had an hour in the auditorium which Dee noted provided ample time to cover questions. Mary suggested that Dr. Durden be encouraged to include in his presentation how to promote student critical thinking through research.

David said that he would report back on the budget. We then agreed to set the next meeting for February 22, 2017 at 11 a.m.

Mary Waalkes
January 25, 2017