Critical Thinking Committee Minutes for the 9/28/2016 teleconference:

Attending: David Gribbin, Val Czerny, Courtney Joiner, Mary Waalkes

David Gribbin updated us on the Fifth Year Report, which has been sent in and for which the results will be announced in December at the annual SACSCOC meeting.

David discussed the purpose and function of the Critical Thinking Committee, which can be found under the President’s website. The committee is responsible for putting on a conference if so desired, engaging in critical thinking activities across the college, submitting an annual report, and recommending new or changes to policies or procedures dealing with the QEP. We have a modest budget that we can use for these purposes.

The committee is composed of the Director of Institutional Research (David Gribbin); the Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning (open position); each campus has a facilitator for critical thinking (Dr. Val Czerny in Statesboro, Prof. Courtney Joiner in Swainsboro, and Dr. Mary Waalkes in Augusta); and faculty champions can be elected from each campus. We discussed asking David Strickland, Ren Denton, and Florenta Sega to be champions for their campus, and agreed to email each other when we know if the position was accepted.

We discussed what activities we will be engaged in. Eventually, we may work with the SACS Decennial Review. We will also likely be involved in leading the campus and community through discussions as to selecting a new QEP. This process will start roughly in 2018 to 2019. In the meantime, our standing committee can conduct workshops on critical thinking topics, and also help answer faculty questions regarding assessment reports.

Val introduced The Creative Thinker’s Toolkit by Gerard Puccio, and a website on biomimicry at www.asknature.org. We discussed using the theme of drawing inspiration through nature for the next Critical Thinking Conference. Val suggested asking Pat Homer to participate by giving a presentation at the conference. We talked about conference dates and agreed to move the conference to the fall.

We set the next teleconference meeting for Wednesday, Oct. 12.

Mary Waalkes
October 7, 2016