Planning Day Breakout Report -Task Force on the Quality of Undergraduate Life

Between fifty and sixty individuals attended the breakout session conducted on the recommendations of the Task Force on the Quality of Undergraduate Life. There was a broad representation of faculty, professional staff, and even one student. I was fortunate to have five of the six focus subgroup facilitators in attendance. They also assisted to answer some questions and clarify others. A two-page handout was distributed to each attendee. It listed the thirty-three recommendations that would be acted upon over the next one and one half years. The general overall response to the presentation was very positive and supportive of the recommendations:

Specific reactions and/or questions were as follows:
A positive reaction to increasing math and science assistance in the learning center was made;

A positive reaction to a non-credit bearing advisement seminar was made;

A question about why we don’t have a three-credit seminar for all freshmen was asked;

A positive reaction to developing a reference guide to assist students was made;

Support to better share the academic accomplishments of faculty and students was obvious;

Support to renegotiate the CAS/Sodexho exclusivity agreement was unanimous;

Response to the Whiteface initiative was positive and two faculty members requested consideration to become mentors;
Response to starting a First Year Council was very positive;

Discussion occurred on the one-credit major embedded course. Although the response was positive, questions as to whether every major could or should do one arose. It was explained that flexibility would be needed.

Discussion on e-mail occurred. Most favored the new header approach, although a few liked the digest approach.

One faculty member noted that there might be too many changes proposed to carry out in a year and a half.

One faculty member asked if we were to do more, what could we stop doing;

EOP staff questioned the timing of their proposed move and reminded the group that they carry out a summer program.