The SACS QEP Team and the SACS Executive Team met on August 8, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. in the President’s Conference Room of the Heldenfels Administration Building. Members present included: Marjorie Villani, Marivel Gonzales-Hernandez, Ed Cohn, Dr. David Arreguin, Vickie Natale, Dr. Ann Lopez, Dr. Lee Sloan, George Dunson, Lenora Keas, Tamatha Jackson, and Dr. Patty Walter. Absent: Joe Alaniz, Dr. James Pierce, Jose Rivera, and Pete Flores. Guest: Claudia Jackson.

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the June 20 meeting by consensus.

VPI Marjorie Villani gave a recap of the SACS QEP Conference at which she attended with Dr. Sloan and Dr. Walter at the end of July. The conference focused on assessing general education and student learning outcomes. Ms. Villani reminded the committee that the winter conference will be held in San Antonio, and she encouraged all QEP team members to attend.

Dr. Sloan mentioned two new directions learned at the conference. First, beginning with this year’s group, flexibility in meeting the QEP standards will no longer be allowed. If all components for a QEP are not clearly in place, recommendations will be given, and the institution will automatically be placed in a sanctioned status, most likely probationary. Second, a new component has been added to the QEP. Not only must the QEP be a focused activity, it must also have institution-wide implementation (rather than implementation in a selected department). Dr. Sloan emphasized that the QEP should be identified as an area for which the institution will want to make a five-year commitment of time and significant resources to improve student learning outcomes.

Dr. Patty Walter, who has been identified as the QEP leader, gave a presentation concerning the steps for developing a QEP and a synopsis of the efforts made thus far at Del Mar College. After reviewing the white paper topics, the focus groups feedback, and the empirical data available, Dr. Walter asked the group to think about the common thread. The committee agreed that enhancing math achievement is the best focus for the institution.

Work will continue on identifying members for Dr. Walter’s committee. Ms. Villani mentioned that a new QEP timeline will be developed that will identify the next steps, such as nominating an evaluator, identifying an editor, and developing the marketing efforts. The committee also agreed that it will be important to identify the courses that will be used in the assessment of the QEP.

The committee set the next meeting date for September 26 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.