The SACS QEP Team and the SACS Executive Team met on November 7, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. in the President’s Conference Room of the Heldenfels Administration Building. Members present included: Marjorie Villani, Dr. Mark Escamilla, Ed Cohn, Dr. David Arreguin, Vickie Natale, Mike Anzaldua, Dr. Lee Sloan, George Dunson, Jose Rivera, Lenora Keas, Tamatha Jackson, and Dr. Patty Walter. Absent: Marivel Gonzales-Hernandez. Guests: Eric Moller and Antonio David.

IVPI Marjorie Villani welcomed the group and introduced committee members and guests to the President, Dr. Mark Escamilla. Ms. Villani mentioned that it will be critical for the institution to tie the QEP to the Strategic Plan. President Escamilla will lead the institution in developing a new strategic plan beginning in January, whereby we will be indentifying the key priorities for the institution and reaffirming the College’s vision, mission, and values.

Dr. Walter gave an update on her progress with the QEP. She has met with the Math department and with all instructional department chairs. Mr. Moller presented data demonstrating a significant increase in retention and successful completion for students in algebra classes by switching the delivery method while maintaining the same course content and standards. This work was accomplished through a course redesign project, utilizing an Internet-based computer interactive program and turning the classroom into an active learning environment.

Ms. Villani stressed two positive outcomes of the study: strengthening student math skills and strengthening and changing the delivery methods in the classroom. To achieve these outcomes on a broader basis, the College must address the human, financial, and physical facilities needs for the Math department, as well as address advising issues, the impact on online courses, and strengthen the process for assessing student skills upon entry for determining placement levels.

Dr. Walter named the faculty identified for the Research and Design Committee that she is chairing: Don Craig, Business; Christin Vega, Dental and Imaging; Erik Houser, Mathematics; Pat Frederick, Computer Science; Gary Merchant, Counseling and Advising; Walter Kramer, Natural Sciences. An additional member may be selected from Social Sciences. The timeline for the QEP was distributed and reviewed, stressing that the title and focus of the QEP and its goals/objectives tied to the strategic plan will be developed before the end of this semester.

In response to a question by Dr. Arreguin, a motion was made by Dr. Sloan, seconded by Ms. Keas, to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2008, meeting. Motion carried.

The committee set its next meeting for January 20, 2009, at 9:00 a.m.

Dr. Walter mentioned a need to update the website for the SACS information. Ms. Villani requested that Dr. Walter and Ms. Natale work together on the project.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.