The SACS QEP Team and the SACS Executive Team met on January 9, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in the President’s Conference Room of the Heldenfels Administration Building. Members present included: Dr. Mark Escamilla, Ed Cohn, Dr. David Arreguin, Vickie Natale, Mike Anzaldua, Dr. Lee Sloan, Lenora Keas, Tamatha Jackson, John Crisp, and Dr. Patty Walter. Absent: Marjorie Villani, George Dunson, Jose Rivera, and Marivel Gonzales-Hernandez.

Dr. Patty Walter chaired the meeting and opened with notes of celebration. John Crisp was lauded for creating the first SACS newsletter which was distributed this week. Thanks and praise were also extended to Rachel Barchus-Perkes for the design and layout of the newsletter. Vickie Natale gave a presentation of the newly developed SACS website, with a note of thanks to Jessica Montalvo for her assistance on the layout. Committee members made suggestions on the look and titles used for the website, as well as other documents that might be added.

Dr. Walter asked the group if anyone else was willing to step in as recording secretary, since Ms. Natale has performed that function for the past two years. No one volunteered immediately, and Dr. Walter asked members to talk to her individually.

Dr. Walter, Ms. Natale, and Dr. Escamilla gave an update on the SACS Orientation meeting held in Atlanta on January 26. Several handouts from the meeting were provided to the committee. Dr. Walter noted that the onsite visit has been officially scheduled for October 12-14, 2010.

The Research and Design Committee, chaired by Dr. Walter, has met with members of the Math department. The emerging objectives and possible titles for the QEP, as developed by the R&D Committee, were presented. Dr. Walter emphasized the importance of demonstrating the use of empirical data in the design and selection of the QEP topic, and she shared tables and graphs on Developmental Math that have been studied by the R&D Committee.

Dr. Sloan mentioned that the College’s list of core competencies does not include a Math component. The College has focused on the six intellectual competencies required by the Coordinating Board, which includes critical thinking but not specifically mathematics. Dr. Escamilla noted that our efforts to rectify this omission will further demonstrate our efforts toward continuous improvement.

Dr. Walter mentioned a faculty survey distributed by the R&D Committee. The response rate on the survey is 33 percent. Some committee members said that they were not aware of the deadline for returning the survey, so it was suggested that the survey be reopened to increase the survey response rate.

The committee discussed scheduling the next meeting for March 27 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.