



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost

April 5, 2006

TO: Dr. J. Martyn Gunn, Professor and Chair
Quality Enhancement Plan Council

SUBJECT: QEP Recommendation and Assessment Report

I appreciate the time and effort that the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Council has invested in generating the Assessment Report and Analysis of the Acceptability of the Quality Enhancement Plan for 2002-2005. I applaud your efforts.

I support the QEP Council's recommendation to refine the focus of the University's QEP from four themes to one: *Inquiry/Research-based Education of Undergraduates*. This refined theme aligns with the President's Taskforce for Enhancing the Undergraduate Experience and Vision 2020 and is clearly consistent with Texas A&M University's research mission. Furthermore, it is a theme that is widely supported across the university.

Further, I affirm your plan to work closely with the QEP Council this semester to provide recommendations in the areas of QEP implementation, proposal reform and resource allocation, and assessment of the QEP. In order to enhance the work of these sub-groups and to ensure excellence in the refined QEP, I affirm your recommendations of the following:

- 1) To work in concert with Dr. Bob Webb, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Research, Dr. Paul Meyer, Assistant Provost, the Office of Institutional Assessment, and the Council of Deans to identify the most effective, efficient, and enduring means to implement and evaluate the QEP.
- 2) To update the QEP website and provide a central repository of QEP documents in order to ensure efficient communication and summary reports of the QEP.
- 3) To collaborate with CTE in the delivery of continued faculty development initiatives.
- 4) To work with the Office of Institutional Assessment to further clarify the relationship of the university's overall institutional assessment process to QEP.
- 5) To improve monitoring of QEP and follow-up through the consistent collection of assessment reports that demonstrate the contribution that QEP is making to research-based education at Texas A&M.
- 6) To work with the Office of Assessment to clarify the role of the College QEP Councils.

In addition to affirming your recommendations, please move swiftly to ensure the following:

- 1) Integration of QEP's efforts with the implementation of Dr. Elsa Murano's committee's suggestions for undergraduate research.
- 2) Integration of the main campus QEP with the Galveston and Qatar QEP processes.

- 3) Strategic implementation of QEP using the currently budgeted \$100,000 of funds from the Provost to invite proposals that will be replicable. Matching funds are encouraged by the Colleges but not necessary for 2006-07.
- 4) Identifying a means to publicly recognize the successful implementation of QEP.

I look forward to reviewing the refined QEP implementation and assessment plan.



David B. Prior
Executive Vice President
and Provost

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cc: Dr. William L. Perry, Vice Provost
Dr. Paul R. Meyer, Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs and Assessment
Dr. Marilee J. Bresciani, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Assessment