

AQIP Project Form

Timeline:

Planned Project kickoff date: Aug. 4, 2008

Target completion date: June 1, 2009

A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:

Develop engaging learning spaces

B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:

The overall goal is to develop space planning criteria that can have the most significant impact on student engagement and student satisfaction. In 2008-09, this project will focus on a research project in which we observe the experiences of faculty and students in renovated classrooms and in a new student union at our Andover campus.

C. Identify the single AQIP Category the Action Project will most affect or impact:

Category 3 – Understanding Students' and Other Stakeholders' Needs

D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now, why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:

As part of our strategic planning process, we identified building student engagement inside and outside the classroom and enhancing our facilities and grounds as two of our five strategic priorities. This project will help us advance both priorities.

E. List the organizational areas, institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units most affected by or involved in this Action Project:

This project involves 22 general education faculty and 4 nursing faculty and more than 500 students in classrooms at our El Dorado and Andover campuses, all of whom are conducting class in renovated learning spaces this fall. A similar number of faculty and students will be involved in spring 2009. In addition, our general enrollment at the

Andover campus, as well as faculty and staff, are involved in the opening of the new student union. Their interactions in this new informal space will also be observed. This project is lead by a Learning Spaces team, chaired by the Chief Information Officer. This team has cross-representation from academics (including faculty and the vice president for academic affairs), student services, and facilities. The Office of Research and Institutional Effectiveness is managing the research plan for the project.

F. Name and describe briefly the key organizational process(es) that you expect this Action Project to change or improve:

Enrollment management – this project will improve our process for identifying and responding to the needs of our students, especially in the design and organization of learning spaces and the use of technology

Planning – this project will improve our process for space and technology planning.

Instruction, engagement and student success – we expect this project will also highlight the relationships between physical space, student behavior and pedagogy, providing guidance on how we can improve teaching and create more effective strategies to promote student success.

G. Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion):

The research plan is contained to academic year 2008-9. At the beginning of both fall and spring semesters, students and faculty involved in the learning spaces are asked to complete a pre-occupancy survey that evaluates their experiences in a traditional classroom. At the end of each term, the same group will be asked to complete a follow-up survey that evaluates their experiences in the new classrooms. A similar approach will be carried out to study the impact of the new union. In both formal and informal spaces, students and staff will also have chances to provide feedback through focus groups or debriefing sessions.

H. Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing:

The chief information officer is project lead. He will bring quarterly reports to Executive Council. In addition, the research office will provide

mid-year and end-of-year summaries of research findings to the project team, Executive Council, the faculty and staff involved in the learning spaces, and the college as a whole.

I. Describe the overall “outcome” measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals:

By end of September 2008 – pre-occupancy surveys in learning spaces completed.

By end of November 2008 – post-occupancy surveys and student focus groups completed; initial evaluation of Student Union impact completed

By end of December 2008 – faculty debriefings completed.

January 2009 – mid-year report of research findings distributed to stakeholders

By end of February 2009 – pre-occupancy surveys completed in learning spaces

By end of May – post-occupancy surveys, student focus groups and faculty debriefings completed

June 2009 – end-of-year report of research findings distributed to stakeholders.

J. Other information (e.g., publicity, sponsor or champion, etc.):

K. Project Leader and contact person:

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