
Action Project

Building Community

Status: Retired

Institution: Wayne State College

Submitted: 2002-05-29

Timeline:

Planned project kickoff date:

Target completion date:

Actual completion date:

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

Building Community

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

The sense of community on campus is perceived as a strength and there is widespread interest in enhancing the experience for faculty, staff, and students. This project seeks to improve the utilization and accessibility of existing media and information to promote better communication, to assess the campus climate, to schedule community time, and to investigate the possibility of a daycare facility on campus.

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

Primary Category: Supporting Institutional Operations

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:

The importance of the campus community was shared by all sectors and there was an interest in increasing communication and trying to schedule a common time when all segments of the campus could participate. This concept was identified by consensus in the 1999-2000 focus group process and also in 2000-2001 at the AQIP Council retreat and at the opening meeting for all faculty and staff. The specific activities to advance this goal were identified using brainstorming, nominal group, multi-voting, and rank ordering techniques. Over 400 faculty and staff participated in the opening meeting activity.

E. List the organizational areas - -institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units --

most affected by or involved in this Action Project:

This project will have a campus wide impact.

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

The project should improve communication across the campus with a general increase in access to information about activities on campus. It should also facilitate the scheduling of meetings involving different sectors of the campus.

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

AQIP topics will be a regular part of the campus bulletin, progress on projects will be reported at the fall and spring faculty and staff meetings. Open meetings will be scheduled to discuss specific activities and recruit volunteers. Specific members of the AQIP Council have been assigned to facilitate different aspects of this project.

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

Percentage of campus climate surveys returned.
Progress reports by the groups working on community, time, and daycare possibilities.

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:

An improvement in the sense of community as measured by a campus climate survey.
An increase in the level of participation at open meetings on campus.
An increase in the level of participation by faculty, staff, and students in activities outside their own areas.
Easier access to daycare for faculty, staff, and students.

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

80% participation rate in the campus climate survey. Establish a common meeting time (community time) on campus. A significant increase in the utilization of the community time by all sectors of the campus.

Last Action Project Update: 2005-09-14

A. Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current status of this Action Project.

WSC developed and administered a campus climate survey to college employees. The response rate for the staff survey was 58.8%. The survey was extensive and the results are posted on the WSC AQIP webpage at www.wsc.edu/academic/aqip/annual_activities/2004-05/staff_report_04_05.pdf. 57.4% agreed there was a sense of community on campus, while

22.4% disagreed. The survey indicated the need for greater communication between the various sectors and we implemented some strategies to improve this. Members of the faculty senate are now included on key administrative committees. This survey has established baseline data regarding campus issues that can be used in the future.

B. Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action Project.

The survey was developed, administered and analyzed as a class project for a social sciences research class in consultation with the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The results were widely distributed and posted on our webpage. Following a campus wide discussion different strategies were developed to address some of the issues as mentioned above.

C. Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project.

A modified version of the survey will be repeated this year to measure the effectiveness of the strategies implemented last year.

D. Describe any "effective practice(s)" that resulted from your work on this Action Project.

Using the senior social sciences research class for this project proved to be a good experience for them and provided the college with useful information for improvement.

E. What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project?

We need a higher response rate and will promote the effectiveness of last years survey and the changes it produced to generate more interest in this years process. We will probably continue this action project for one more year and then will retire the project eventhough we will continue to work at improving the campus community.

F. If you would like to discuss the possibility of AQIP providing you help to stimulate progress on this action project, explain your need(s) here and tell us who to contact and when?
