A Collaborative Effort — Critical Thinking Scoring Guide

The Critical Thinking Learning Society and four faculty guests worked collaboratively on November 22, 2013 to draft the College’s Critical Thinking Scoring Guide (rubric) that will be used on student artifacts to support the QEP’s assessment and evaluation plan for Goal #1: To enhance students’ critical thinking skills. The faculty guests were recommended by the Critical Thinking Learning Society because of their dedication to teaching and learning.

Participants described the process as both exhilarating and exhausting. Eighteen faculty from various disciplines, programs, and campuses worked in groups to develop a scoring guide based on the four critical thinking learning outcomes, which yielded four scoring guides. Once each group completed its scoring guide, the groups evaluated all of the scoring guides. Based on this democratic process, a universal scoring guide was created, and mentors did some fine-tuning this month.

According to faculty guest, Dr. Steve Roig-Watnik, Associate Professor of Mathematics, “Having the opportunity to spend an entire work day collaborating with the all-star Critical Thinking Learning Society to develop the scoring guide’s first draft was mentally invigorating and emotionally gratifying. I am convinced that BC’s QEP initiative has the potential to transform not only our students' lives, but also our faculty's core premises about the teaching and learning process.”

Dr. Joy Stewart, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, participated in the workshop as a faculty guest. She indicated, “The QEP critical thinking scoring guide workshop experience exemplified the power of collegiality. At the end of the day, faculty reflected on the process and experience. Greg Lindeblom, Professor of Economics and Business Administration expressed the intent of the workshop— “Scoring guides are best done in a collaborative fashion. The energy and enthusiasm of the group made it a true pleasure to be involved.”

During Winter 2014, the Critical Thinking Learning Society and QEP Implementation Committee will facilitate a “Scoring Guide Showcase” to discuss with faculty and Student Affairs professionals how they can use the critical thinking scoring guide even if they are not formally participating in the QEP as mentors or mentees.

“Teach people to make good decisions and you equip them to improve their own futures and become contributing members of society, rather than burdens on society.” – Facione, 2006