

AMP Academic Quality Subcommittee Activities and Recommendations, 2013-2014

Academic Quality subcommittee members reviewed the current AMP and its implementation and explored the master plans and QEP documents of our peer institutions. We then held several brainstorming sessions about the future of academic quality at MTSU. Our discussions consistently returned to the four topics listed below, suggesting that these are issues that deserve broader discussion for the new AMP.

- ✚ **Distinctiveness.** MTSU should emphasize its strong record of faculty engagement with students in teaching, advising and mentoring. Furthermore, MTSU offers an affordable and high-quality education for our students' futures.
- ✚ **Academic community.** MTSU should build a stronger academic community with a clear sense of purpose and a consistent standard of quality. This academic community would provide a variety of experiences for and with diverse groups of people. Its members would create knowledge that serves the needs of our communities and society, value academic and civic engagement, and foster excellence and innovation.
- ✚ **Students.** A strong academic community is essential because MTSU must prepare students who can complete a degree (bachelor's, master's, doctoral), who are prepared not only for a first job but a career and the jobs of the future, and who are empowered. MTSU students and graduates will be people who can learn, who behave in an ethical and responsible manner, who can assess and evaluate, who can communicate, and who can work in a team.
- ✚ **Systematic, structural support to enhance excellence and innovation.** An academic community requires organizational procedures that facilitate innovation and recognize and reward excellence. MTSU should provide the necessary communication processes, information resources, and infrastructure to facilitate community, civic and academic engagement among and between students, faculty, and staff.

Members also drafted statements that we hope will provide starting points for university-wide dialogue about the Academic Quality goal and strategic directions for 2015-2025. Some examples of draft goals:

- ✚ MTSU will foster a culture that engages stakeholders to be productive and collaborative lifelong citizens.
- ✚ Middle Tennessee State University will achieve academic excellence by continuing to develop a culture that promotes academic engagement, supports scholarship, and fosters community.

Examples of draft strategic directions:

- ✚ educating students for a future of lifelong learning, professional development, and civic engagement;
- ✚ creating a cohesive academic community that provides students, faculty and staff with a sense of belonging and participation in the life of the university;
- ✚ encouraging interdisciplinary initiatives, especially in general education;
- ✚ integrating technology into teaching, learning, and research;
- ✚ communicating the distinctiveness and value of academic quality in four-year college programs and graduate programs.