**Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Annual Report: May 31, 2010**

The main task for this year was to prepare for the on-site accreditation visit by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), which took place in early April 2010. It took many years to prepare for the visit, and many persons contributed to our success.

The bulk of the 2009-2010 academic year was dedicated to writing the formal QEP Proposal—a 100-page, single spaced document. UTHealth’s QEP Proposal is titled “Beyond Silos: Enhancing Ethics Education in and across the Health Professions,” and this plan lays out a five-year initiative to, as the subtitle suggests, enhance the teaching of ethics at UTHealth. The primary author of the QEP Proposal is Dr. Nathan Carlin, Assistant Professor in the McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics. SACS accepted the plan with no recommendations.

Developing the plan was broad-based and involved faculty and students from all six schools of UTHealth. Dr. Thomas Cole, Director of the McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics, and Dr. Jeffrey Spike, Director of the Campus-Wide Ethics Program, oversee the development and implementation of the QEP. Dr. Carlin coordinates the plan.

The faculty development phase of the QEP is currently underway. Dr. Spike is leading a 15- week summer seminar titled, “The Foundations of Health Professional Ethics.” The course covers many of the foundational texts in bioethics, and faculty from all six schools of UTHealth are participating in the course.

Dr. Spike has also developed drafts of four introductory modules that potentially will serve as introductions to bioethics, clinical ethics, research ethics and professionalism in all six of UTHealth’s schools. The content of the modules, as well as the learning objectives and assessment methods, are being revised. The plan is to pilot these modules with students in the spring of 2011.

Other tasks for 2010-2011 include, but are not limited to, developing interprofessional ethics cases for discussion, interprofessional ethics patient simulations, annotated bibliographies for ethics education, an interprofessional populations science course, and a “just-in-time” research ethics module.

Drafted by Nathan Carlin on May 19, 2010

Revised by McGovern Center QEP Committee on May 26, 2010