**Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Annual Report: May 31, 2013**

The 2012-2013 academic year marks the mid-point of UTHealth’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a requirement for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The major goals for this year included:

* revising, offering, and assessing the various courses and programs previously developed or enhanced as a part of the QEP;
* preparing to offer a second conference on interprofessional ethics;
* conducting the mid-point assessment of the QEP learning outcomes; and
* beginning to prepare the Impact Report for SACS.

All of these goals have been achieved. UTHealth is in good shape with regard to the QEP as the due date for the SACS interim report approaches.

A few accomplishments in particular stand out. One is the extension of funding to the Campus-Wide Ethics Program (CWEP). During the on-site SACS visit in April 2010, the reviewers were concerned about the budget of the QEP. The QEP appeared underfunded because the budget for the CWEP was not included in the QEP report submitted to SACS. Once the on-site reviewers were given a copy of both budgets, they were satisfied. The funding for the CWEP was scheduled to end in 2012, but a new program (with reduced funding) was funded to continue the efforts of the CWEP. The initiative is now called the Program in Interprofessional Ethics (PIE). The name change reflects the fact that “interprofessional ethics” is an emerging area of academic inquiry in health professional ethics.

To maintain the broad-based nature of the QEP, Dr. Stancel added Dr. Carlin (the QEP Coordinator) as a member of the Academic Council—this will be viewed favorably by SACS, as the SACS review team suggested that high level university administrators should be continually involved with the QEP. Dr. Carlin’s presence on the committee helps to address this suggestion.

Another accomplishment involves the hosting of a national interprofessional ethics conference at UTHealth.

Last year the Academic Council requested a conference on interprofessional education with a focus on ethics. Dr. Jeffrey Spike and Dr. Susan Benedict, co-directors of PIE in 2012-2013, organized a conference with the title “Ethics as the Core of the Curriculum: Innovations in Interprofessional Ethics Education.” National leaders from various health professions will present on interprofessional ethics education on June 2 and 3, 2013. Also of interest, the PIE program awarded mini-grants for projects related to interprofessional ethics at UTHealth. The papers from the previous conference on “Social Justice and the Health Professions: Ethical and Experiential Issues” (organized by Dr. Nathan Carlin) are now in print.

Other accomplishments of the QEP involve improvements with regard to assessment. Assessment of *The Brewsters* has been improved in two ways: (1) the pre-test was added in all schools; and (2) questions and learning objectives were revised to be more discriminating. The mid-point assessment of the QEP as a whole was also launched in March 2013; the results should be ready by Fall 2013.

Accomplishments that are school specific include the beginning of the development of a Clinical Humanities Certificate Program at the School of Dentistry (led by Dr. Flaitz); the implementation of a new ethics and policy course at the School of Public Health (taught by Dr. Stephen Linder); the implementation of an ethics and policy course at the School of Biomedical Informatics (taught by Mr. Jonathan Ishee); and the presentation of *The Brewsters* at the International Council of Nurses (given by Dr. Benedict).

The primary goals for next year include:

* revising, especially in light of the mid-point assessment, the various courses and programs previously developed or enhanced as a part of the QEP;
* strengthening and/or creating new face-to-face interprofessional learning activities relating to the QEP; and
* continuing to prepare the Impact Report for SACS (draft of outline by August 31, 2014).

Drafted by Dr. Nathan Carlin on April 4, 2013 Approved by Dr. Thomas Cole on May 7, 2013 Approved by the Academic Council on June 18, 2013