

Action Project 7 Charter

Assessment of Spiritual Development of Students

Opportunity for the team: The team will develop processes and procedures enabling Evangel to assess the currency and results of fostering spiritual development among students.

Data that led to the selection of this project: Evangel has long recognized the need for a concrete measure of the abstract concept of spiritual development; such measure has proven to be a dilemma for many faith-based institutions. Standardized instruments have been used with low levels of confidence. Stimulus for this project came from Evangel's Systems Appraisal Feedback wherein appraisers noted the only "OO" (Outstanding Opportunity) in observing, "Evangel offers numerous opportunities for spiritual growth...but provides no data regarding the accomplishment of the University's other distinctive objectives."

Project scope: The team task is to:

1. Identify expectations of spiritual life at Evangel by stakeholders, including students, parents, alumni, and pastors.
2. Identify and collect objective data indicative of spiritual development.
3. Identify existing measures of spiritual development.
4. Develop a plan and/or instrument to objectively assess spiritual development of students during their Evangel experience.
5. Develop an implementation plan—including benchmarks with sister CCCU institutions.
6. Develop a plan to use data to set targets for improvement.
7. Develop an assessment plan to assess the effectiveness of the measures.

After the team is chartered it will:

- Negotiate and refine any details of the charter
- Clarify Project Components
- Establish timelines for each phase of the project
- Design and/or obtain measurement instruments
- Collect data
- Analyze data
- Identify opportunities for improvement
- Design an implementation plan
- Recommend implementation processes
- Develop an evaluation plan
- Make recommendations for improvement

Customer Requirements: The customer is the Evangel University community, including internal and external stakeholders. A data-driven process to plan and assess spiritual development would enable us to determine specific spiritual needs of our students, provide opportunities for students to develop in those areas, provide Evangel with benchmark data among other CCCU institutions, and provide parents and stakeholders with the confidence that Evangel is accomplishing its mission to provide spiritual development in all students.

Team Selection Guidelines: The team will be composed of the current Spiritual Life Committee as well as the staff members representing various areas as follows:

Bryan Sanders, Chair	Social Sciences Department
Sheri Phillips	LifeWorks
Steve Smallwood	Theology Department
Don Tosh	Science & Technology Department
Brian Upton	Counseling Services

Reporting Structure between the team and the Campus Planning Council sub-committee: The team will operate according to the EU AQIP Project Improvement Process Flowchart, as approved by the Campus Planning Council and set forth in the Systems Portfolio, Page 8.5.

The Project Manager will bear responsibility to keep the team on task and time targets. The team will provide monthly progress updates to the Campus Planning Council AQIP Subcommittee who will in turn report to the full Campus Planning Council. EU community members will be updated through e-mails, web postings, and departmental and campus-wide meetings.

Project Constraints: The team will consist of the Spiritual Life Committee members and representatives from staff areas, who will be empowered to gather data pertaining to, but not limited to, existing activities and measures of spiritual development at Evangel, existing measures of spiritual development at other faith-based institutions, expectations and perceptions of spiritual life at Evangel by stakeholders, including students, parents, alumni, and pastors.

Authority to consult experts: The team may consult with knowledgeable individuals within the University and at other institutions as needed. They may engage consultants with the understanding that any consultant that would require a fee will need prior approval of the Campus Planning Council.

Authority to change processes: The team will make recommendations to the designated AQIP contact and/or appropriate Campus Planning Council sub-committee. At appropriate intervals, the findings and recommendations will be referred to the Campus Planning Council for implementation approval. Oversight of newly implemented programs and processes will rest with the respective Vice-President or his designee.

Deliverables at the conclusion of the project: The team shall deliver the following:

1. Expectations of spiritual life at Evangel by stakeholders, including students, parents, alumni, and pastors.
2. Objective data indicative of spiritual development.
3. Existing measures of spiritual development.
4. A plan and/or instrument to objectively assess spiritual development of students during their Evangel experience.
5. An implementation plan—including benchmarks with sister CCCU institutions.
6. A plan to use data to set targets for improvement.
7. An assessment plan to assess the effectiveness of the measures.

Timeline for completion of the project: The team will develop time targets for each phase of the project; project completion no later than April 1, 2010.

Recognition of efforts and team accomplishments: Incremental milestones will be publicly recognized within the Evangel community through e-mails, web postings, and community gatherings. Upon completion of the project, the team members will feel satisfaction in having addressed an important issue impacting the efficiency and effectiveness of the Evangel University Community. Team members will receive recognition at the campus-wide meetings commensurate with the quality of the report, along with an honorarium for a team celebration.