



Open Pathway

Quality Initiative Proposal Review Form

Date of Review: June 7, 2014

Name of Institution: Millikin University

State: Illinois

Institutional ID: 1124

Reviewers (names, titles, institutions):

Dr. David Jones, Associate Dean of Faculty, Westminster College;

Dr. John Gratton, President, New Mexico State University Carlsbad

Review Categories and Findings

I. Sufficiency of the Initiative's Scope and Significance

- ◆ Potential for significant impact on the institution and its academic core
- ◆ Alignment with the institution's mission and vision
- ◆ Connection with the institution's planning processes
- ◆ Evidence of significance and relevance at this time
- ◆ Potential to improve and sustain institutional and educational quality

Finding:

The Quality Initiative proposal demonstrates acceptable scope and significance.

The Quality Initiative proposal does not demonstrate acceptable scope and significance.

Rationale and Comments:

Millikin University's QI proposal is focused around the area of "performance learning." Millikin has long focused its curriculum and co-curricular programs around the concept of performance learning but has not clearly articulated to this point what the concept means to the institution and how it should be implemented, assessed, and marketed. As the institution's strategic plan places performance learning at the center of the institution's mission and plans for the future, it is entirely appropriate that the institution focus on a community-wide discussion of what performance learning means to Millikin.

II. Clarity of the Initiative's Purpose

- ◆ Clear purposes and goals reflective of the scope and significance of the initiative
- ◆ Defined milestones and intended goals
- ◆ Clear processes for evaluating progress
- ◆ Comprehensive plan for accomplishing the initiative and achieving the goals

Finding:

The Quality Initiative proposal demonstrates clarity of purpose.

The Quality Initiative proposal does not demonstrate clarity of purpose.

Rationale and Comments:

Millikin has developed a well-articulated plan to 1) clarify the definition of performance learning, 2) facilitate a campus culture around performance learning, including the development of student learning outcomes and assessment measures, 3) better position the university in the higher education marketplace. The plan also includes a series of specific goals designed to help achieve each of the three main objectives and an appropriate timeline for achieving objectives.

III. Evidence of Commitment to and Capacity for Accomplishing the Initiative

- ◆ Commitment of senior leadership
- ◆ Commitment and involvement of key people and groups
- ◆ Sufficiency of the human, financial, technological, and other resources
- ◆ Alignment of resources to the implementation plan and timeline
- ◆ Defined plan for integrating the initiative into the ongoing work of the institution and sustaining its results
- ◆ Clear understanding of and capacity to address potential obstacles

Finding:

The Quality Initiative proposal demonstrates evidence of commitment and capacity.

The Quality Initiative proposal does not demonstrate evidence of commitment and capacity.

Rationale and Comments:

Millikin has already engaged with 100 members of the college community (faculty, staff, administrators, and students) in initial brainstorming sessions in March 2014. Senior leadership is heavily involved in the initiative, especially at the dean level, and the president is personally committed to the initiative. A number of offices, including alumni and development, marketing, student life, athletics, and the Career Center are also involved. The university has also devoted financial resources to the project in the form of grants and other monies to faculty to help facilitate academic endeavors advancing performance learning programming.

IV. Appropriateness of the Timeline for the Initiative

- ◆ Consistency with intended purposes and goals
- ◆ Alignment with the implementation of other institutional priorities
- ◆ Reasonable implementation plan for the time period

Finding

The Quality Initiative proposal demonstrates an appropriate timeline.

The Quality Initiative proposal does not demonstrate an appropriate timeline.

Rationale and Comments:

The institution sees the QI as part of an ongoing effort to develop its understanding of performance learning and does not plan to limit the initiative to a couple of years. Nevertheless, the university has laid out a series of performance objectives over the next two-three years that are appropriate and will help to advance the quality initiative in a timely fashion.

- V. General Observations and Recommended Modifications:** The quality initiative proposal provides Millikin University with an excellent opportunity to further its understanding of the concept of performance learning, how it should be practiced at Millikin, how it should be assessed, and how it should be used to help better position the university through marketing in an ever-changing higher education marketplace.

VI. Conclusion:

Approve the proposed Quality Initiative with or without recommended minor modifications. No further review required.

Request resubmission of the proposed Quality Initiative

Rationale and Expectations if Requesting Resubmission

Timeline and Process for Resubmission (the Commission staff will add this section if the recommendation is for resubmission)

