Members Present
Karen Downey, Manuela Imthurn, Jerrod Butcher, Johanna Hume, Dena Faust, Rhonda Boone, Nikki Thompson, Chris Chance, Drew Nelson, Dwight Rhodes
Members Absent
Bill Lewis, Jason Nichols, Patrick Sanger

Class Statistics
Nikki presented the following grade distribution statistics:

	Withdrawal Rates	Failure Rates
2007-2008		
Internet/Hybrid	23.17%	21.81%
Face2face	14.37%	14.77%
2008-2009		
Internet/Hybrid	22.84%	26.90%
Face2face	15.24%	20.89%

Literature Review
A discussion was held on the various reviews that had been posted to Blackboard. Many of the articles were helpful to the topic of an online student orientation for Blackboard. Issues that were discussed included the need to make the orientation mandatory as students would be unlikely to take it otherwise, and the need to have communications across campus regarding the QEP.

In addition, it was suggested that faculty have a workshop session that includes the kind of help that is available to students (online orientations, Student Blackboard Lounge, PSYC 1300, etc.) and that a student focus group be created to pilot the online Blackboard orientation prior to its becoming mandatory for all students.

Orientation
Suggestions were made regarding work that needs to be done for the QEP at this point. They included:

1. Survey faculty who use Blackboard to find out where students are deficient and which skills are important. Nikki suggested that this could be done by late September on SurveyMonkey. Dena mentioned that the survey should be directed toward Blackboard Tools and Blackboard issues specifically. It was decided that a student survey was not necessary at this point given the literature that focuses on student surveys and our own pass/fail data.

2. Outline possible modules for the orientation. Nikki said that the orientation needs to be general for the overall student population with optional modules such as "What is WiFi?" or "Time Management." These extra modules are not part of the QEP and would not be tracked by QEP data.

Nikki explained that we will be measuring the mandatory online orientation only and looking for improvement. Extra modules may or may not increase student learning

outcomes. However, causality is not essential, so the optional modules are fine and do not need to be tracked.

Tracking of the specific QEP could include data such as which online students continue with online classes, which online students continue with f2f classes only, etc.

Assessing Other Colleges' Orientations
The committee will be assessing the orientations that Dena has posted to Blackboard. She needs specific comments (flash tutorials, audio, clean or cluttered looks, etc.) These comments will be discussed at the next meeting. The committee had favorable comments on some of the following colleges:

Grand Rapids Community College http://www.grcc.edu/orientations
Edison State College http://online.edison.edu/orientation/index.html
Stephen F. Austin http://www.oit.sfasu.edu/orientation/index/index.htm
U of AR, Ft. Smith
http://www.uafortsmith.edu/Online/OrientationInfoForWebBasedClasses
Granite State http://www.granite.edu/academics/online-programs/blackboard-orientation.aspx

There are several other orientations that need to be reviewed as well.

Next Meeting
Thursday, September 2, 2010
2:30
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