

**Meeting Notes - November 1, 2012**  
**Quality Improvement Initiative Subcommittee of NCA Accreditation Advisory Committee**

*Members Present:*

George Schipporeit, Anijo Mathew, Ray Trygstad (co-Chair), Charles Uth (co-Chair)

*Also attending:*

Siva Balasubramanian

Ray Trygstad and Charles Uth were unanimously elected co-chairs of this subcommittee.

Members reviewed the themes from My Perfect IIT Survey conducted in Spring 2012. There was consensus that the subcommittee needed to develop three quality improvement initiative proposals (1-2 pages each) by the end of November 2012. The first of these proposals has already been developed by Mike Gosz, who could not attend today.

Members reviewed Mike Gosz's proposal and there was enthusiastic support for using DegreeWorks to develop a tailored plan for each student that leads to a degree within a specified time frame. The reported high correlation between retention rate and historic graduation rates is very interesting. However, some members expressed concern about the historically low 6 year graduation rates at IIT. George Schipporeit suggested that IIT should consider the 4 year graduation rate also. A notable aspect of this proposal is the focus on several expected desirable outcomes from the proposed initiative. Charles Uth observed that, while it is important to improve the quality of admitted students, we may not be able to attract a large number of high quality students if we were not ranked high in the popular rankings. Therefore, it is very desirable to improve a metric such as 6 year graduation rate if that was a critical input in these rankings to assess IIT's perception/performance relative to other institutions. Members indicated support for Mike Gosz's proposal and suggested that a revised version of this proposal should be included the final set to be advanced to the full NCA Accreditation Advisory Committee.

The discussion next turned to other ideas/themes for quality improvement initiative proposals. Ray Trygstad observed that many of the themes listed from the My Perfect IIT survey were already under different stages of implementation.

**Teaching and Learning Center** – Announced by the President and the Provost at the student Open Forum, Tuesday, October 23rd, 2012, funded by an Alumni donor and to be operational within five years.

**Offer Varsity Sports** – Transition to NCAA Division 3 and expansion of sports offered is currently in progress.

**Invite Guest Speakers/Visiting Dignitaries** – Done through creation of the President's Lecture series; Ray Trygstad will submit a proposal on how to enhance attractiveness of this program to prospective speakers.

**Improve the IIT Website** – Conversion of the IIT Web presence from an unwieldy vendor-supplied pseudo-Content Management System to a true open-source CMS, Drupal, is currently in progress.

**Simpler and Easier Business Processes** – The new Student One-Stop has opened with this as a very specific goal.

George Schippleit reiterated the importance and value of good teaching (and recognizing and rewarding great teachers). He also suggested that we need to consider the Project-based Learning approach. The IPRO 2.0 could be a good format for testing the value of this approach to IIT (relative to traditional approach using a textbook in class). Finally, George noted that a key part of the NCA Accreditation Process at this time is the requirement that each academic program should specify formal learning goals, and then be responsible for providing evidence supporting achievement of those goals.

Anijo Mathew noted the a quality improvement initiative proposal could focus on "visible technology use." One example is a hackathon. George observed that we have now used Ipads for several years to support learning, so we should study how that feature has enhanced student learning experience. Anijo observed that Project Based Learning (PBL) may provide Bottom-up leverage/energy to support student learning, while Visible Technology and New Teaching Approaches (Ipads) may provide Top-down support. Members agreed that it may be worthwhile to begin student involvement in IPRO in the first year instead of waiting for the third year. George observed that our students needed to understand themselves better in the first year before deciding on their major or career goals.

Finally, Siva Balasubramanian reiterated the following immediate tasks for this subcommittee:

- (a) to email three quality improvement initiative proposals (one to two pages each) and the final version of meeting notes after each meeting to Siva before the end of November 2012. In early December, these proposals/meeting notes will be distributed to Provost Cramb and all members of the full committee along with documents from other subcommittees.
- (b) Siva distributed a list of potential faculty champions for Quality Improvement Initiatives that was prepared during the last summer by Ophir Trigalo and Mike Gosz. The subcommittee may wish to consult with faculty members on this list (or others not on this list as appropriate) in developing the quality improvement initiative proposals.
- (c) Siva reviewed the (revised) draft timeline for selecting a Quality Improvement Initiative that was previously emailed to members.