**Team Rankings of Activities by Academic Class, Coded by QEP Category**

**Freshman Team**

1. Case-Based Learning: internships and simulations **APS**
2. Global & Diversity Activities **CCA**
3. Freshman College Success Seminars/Courses **CSS**
4. Enhanced Advising **CSS**
5. Team-Based Projects and Assignments **APS**

**Sophomore Team**

1. Peer Advising **CSS**
2. Case-Based Learning: internships and simulations **APS**
3. Freshman Experience (FR only) **CSS**
4. Learning Communities **CSS**
5. Global & Diversity Courses **CCA**

**Junior/Senior Team 1**

1. Learning Communities **CCS**
2. Case-Based Learning: internships and simulations **APS**
3. Enhanced Advising **CCS**
4. Global & Diversity Courses **CCA**
5. Peer Advising **CSS**

**Junior/Senior Team 2**

1. Freshman Orientation **CSS**
2. Enhanced Advising **CSS**
3. Global & Diversity Activities **CCA**
4. Case-Based Learning: internships and simulations **APS**
5. Peer Tutoring **CSS**

APS – Applied problem solving/experiential learning = 5

CCA – Cross cultural/Diversity = 4

CSS – College/academic success skills, broadly defined = 11

**Research Question and probes:**

1. “What do YOU value about your educational experiences at Lander?”
   1. To prepare for our meeting, please take a few minutes over the next few days to think about the *best* and *worst* academic experiences you’ve had at Lander.
      1. What were the qualities or characteristics of those experiences that made them the best or the worst?
      2. In the worst cases, what could have been done differently that would have made those experiences the “best?”

**Results for BEST: Qualities/Characteristics of Educational Experience at Lander (verbatim, organized by themes; each team provided 5 characteristics)**

1. **People Resources**
   1. Community (2)
   2. Family atmosphere (2)
   3. Caring professors
   4. Personable (professors)
   5. Compassionate (professors)
   6. Small class sizes (2)
      1. (low) student-teacher ratios
      2. Easy to get help
      3. Collaborative, helpful, atmosphere conducive to learning
      4. Hands on environment
2. **Academic Environment**
   1. Entertaining/creative environment
   2. Good resources
   3. Different opportunities
   4. Open environment
3. **Academic Coursework**
   1. Experiential learning
   2. Challenging
   3. Major courses

**Results for WORST: Qualities/Characteristics of Educational Experience at Lander (verbatim, organized by academic status; teams were instructed to list 5 worst characteristics first, then instructed to add remedy for each)**

**CHANGE: Worst to Best**

**Freshman Team**

1. Spanish work: Do either the book or online, not BOTH
2. Studying more (scheduling/time management): Be involved, but not too involved (1 or 2 clubs or B.A.s)
3. Lack of professors for certain classes: Get more professors
4. Early close time of library: Study in room

**Sophomore Team**

1. Close-minded professors: Be open to suggestions from students and be flexible
2. Unprofessional professors: Know what is appropriate and not in the classroom, respect
3. Resistant to change: Understanding that the university grows and people will come with different needs
4. Unconcerned professors: We as students expect the same standards from our professors that they expect from us
5. Incorrect information in catalog: Update catalog

**Junior/Senior Team 1**

1. Close-minded professors: Learn to use resources
2. Restrictive major requirements: revise gen ed and major requirements to be more flexible
3. Cheaters: Be willing to make hard decisions
4. Lack of consistency across majors: More cooperation across majors and departments
5. Unprofessional professors: Be better prepared
6. Limited internship opportunities: talk/build better relationships with the community

**Junior/Senior Team 2**

1. Professors not caring if you leave (withdraw) from class: Hire professors that care about student success
2. Lack of understanding between professors and department chair: Create new methods to solve problems between professors and chair
3. Technology access: Update computers
4. Foreign language requirement and (lack of) variety: Add more foreign language courses or drop the requirement
5. Limited variety of majors and minors: Increase variety of majors and minors

**Debriefing (summary of comments by theme)**

**General Education**

1. General education courses are not interesting, professors seem bored with teaching classes
2. Want more real-world, applied knowledge in general education courses
3. General education requirements need to be more flexible, too rigid, too many categories

**Advising**

1. Advisors not well prepared, give conflicting advice between individuals, across majors
2. Advisors are not faculty in major and often give incorrect advice which causes students problems with meeting program requirements (in a timely manner, correctly, at all)
3. Want enhanced advising
4. Like professional advisors for FR/SOPH years, gen ed, then move to faculty advisors for JR/SR years, major advice, career advice

**Curriculum/Courses/Etc.**

1. Like LU 101, want senior version of course, LU “499”; finance, money management, career prep, job search…need real world skills
2. Want more electives in major requirements, having too few creates delayed graduation, taking courses that don’t count toward anything, a waste of time
3. Want more international experiences/cultural events (FALS)
4. Dislike block classes, causes delayed graduation if get out of sequence, sometimes simply because of lack of communication between advisor and student
5. Summer school: tuition too high without financial aid. Students prefer to take courses at Lander but cannot because of lack of financial support/aid

**Key Themes from Team Exercises and Debriefing**

**Valued Strengths:**

1. student-oriented faculty
2. frequent faculty-student interaction

**Needed action to improve academic experience overall (summarized):**

1. Repair Faculty Burn-out
   1. Sustained and supported recruiting, retention, and professional development (ie. provide training in best practices in classroom teaching, classroom management strategies…, workload reassessment and management) of high quality faculty
2. Curriculum Revision
   1. General education review and revision to make more flexible
   2. Review of rigid/inflexible major requirements
   3. Create variety/flexibility of majors & minors
3. College Success Resources
   1. Enhanced/professional/career Advising
   2. LU 101/499 sequence focused on applied knowledge, life skills