

Senate Assessment Council Minutes – December 15, 2015

Committee Members

Present – Ray Schwartz, Kendall Martin, Jane Zeff, Elizabeth Victor, Bahar Ashnai, Manina Urgolo Huckvale, Jaehyun Kim, Jennifer Owlett

Invitees

Present – Martin Gritsch, Scott McDonough, Joelle Tutela
Absent – Kelli Smith

We invited the Assessment Coordinators from the remaining four colleges to attend our meeting. The topics we discussed 1) Overview of what's going on in assessment in the various colleges, 2) And how do we move assessment along. 3) What tools and knowledge do we need for performing assessment? And 4) outline a strategy to move forward.

Martin Gritsch, the assessment coordinator from the College of Business, began the discussions. Martin talked about the six programs in the College of Business that all go through an accreditation process. Assessment includes the common core, 2000, 3000, and 4000 level courses. There is an assessment committee. Rubrics, which include all three categories, expectations, benchmarks and writing intensive. The College relies heavily on the data from the alumni survey and other offices.

Scott McDonough, the assessment coordinator from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, talked about how the diversity of programs presents many issues for the coordination of assessment. Last year, the College worked on curriculum course mapping to outcomes and syllabus analyses for 13 of 17 programs. Some definitions were created and five year assessment plans are due by February.

Scott mentioned that it would be useful if assessment reports were in a standard form. Each year, they have been using different forms. Campus Labs seems to offer an opportunity to standardize. The 30th of June is the deadline for Middle States. There are many techniques that can be used in assessment, such as portfolios, surveys, and exams. Some guidance could be helpful.

Joelle Tutela, the assessment coordinator from the College of Education, stated that her College abides by the NCATE accreditation. It includes 20 Competencies, and unit assessments in each discipline.

Last year, they implemented the Chalk & Wire Learning Assessment. The College has 28 programs, and 18 of them are in the process of accreditation and programmatic evaluation.

An area they must think about is how to collect data about their graduates. They defined four areas of impact. The College hired a company to evaluate alumni, which includes a "Program Completer" based on 20 competencies. The College also sends surveys to school principals.

Kendall Martin, Committee member and Assessment Coordinator for College of Science and Health, stated that some of the College's programs undergo accreditation. They are public health, nursing, computer science, chemistry, and kinesiology. The natural sciences programs do not undergo an accreditation process, and their approaches to assessment are frequently shifting. Kendall feels there needs to be an education process for faculty in the proper ways to approach assessment.

Our committee member **Jennifer Owlett** from the Communications Department talked about the needs of assessment for the College of the Arts and Communication. For example, there needs to be support

for faculty in developing rubrics.

Following the presentations from the five colleges, discussion continued about the difficulties and where assistance is needed. Martin mentioned that the College of Business still collects assessment data by hand. There followed a discussion on the merits of Campus Labs. Questions were asked if there is a module that does rubric development. And the gap in knowledge of what systems are available was pointed out. Are there systems that support a portfolio style? How can Blackboard accommodate assessment? And what tools are available for survey development? Jae Kim, of IRT, then spoke of the Blue project. A survey tool in which 22 faculty are piloting. Jane Zeff then stated that the IR&A office can help in developing surveys. The attendees agreed that many faculty have a perception that assessment reports are just “filed away” and then do not contribute to any change. It was felt that an organization chart of assessment would be very helpful. A chart that would show the college level, provost level, and the IR&A level. Another suggestion was that an assessment wiki would also be helpful.

Action Items

- Review and Approval of the Senate Assessment Council's October minutes
- Discussion of the suggestions from the December meeting and development of a strategic plan to move forward.

/Ray Schwartz