

Assessment Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 19, 2006
2:30-3:30 p.m.
Bogle Conference Room

Present: Aimee Ash, Angela Becker, Kelly Brown, Sharon Calhoon (chair), Lori Collins, Mary Hansen, Sue Hendricks, Scott Jones, Gail MacKay, Donna McLean, Kathy Ross, Ellen Sigler, Robin Symonds, Bridget Whitmore, and Earl Wysong

Absent: Dmitriy Chulkov, Nadene Keene, Sue Ridlen, Chris Rivers, Allen Safianow (sabbatical)

Approval of Minutes

Bridget Whitmore made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2006; minutes were approved (15-yes, 0-no).

Report on Assessment Plans Received to Date

Sharon Calhoon distributed a list of assessment plans that have been received and a list of those which have not yet been submitted. Sue Hendricks reported that the MSN program in Kokomo gathers data but its plan is IUPUI's because the program resides there. After discussion, the group decided that the lists should be sent to the chairs within the next ten days so they can check on the status of program plans. Plans were due March 31st.

Report on Feedback to Campus Community

Assessment Town Hall

Members discussed comments or observations about the Assessment Town Hall.

Institutions have a mandate to share results with a wider community. The Council discussed ideas for possible ways to accomplish this, including poster sessions, web postings, an Assessment Day with displays, or a printed booklet of results. Sue Hendricks suggested that a group who is interested in starting to use an assessment method could be paired with a group that has some experience using it, such as e-portfolios. Robin Symonds suggested that the Council could categorize assessment into schemes (for example, e-portfolios or standardized tests) and provide some details on each scheme to assist programs with assessment planning. Sharon said that she could book calendar dates for that kind of planning activity in the fall and also for a report about assessment results early in the spring semester.

ADP NSSE Discussion

Sharon Calhoon reported the NSSE sampled more students this year. So far, 349 students have completed surveys, a 33% response rate. After this year, NSSE surveys will be administered every two years.

Aimee Ash reported on the ADP Consortium and NSSE questions related to civic engagement. That group looked at data and found about 1% of students reported learning

about current events from the institution, which is based on a breadth of sources such as classes, campus newspapers, and events. The ADP group discussed ways they could address that, including hot topic forums and integrating current issues into curriculums. The English faculty chose a book for fall semester about immigration, which will be required reading for all W131 students, as one example of pulling current events into the classroom. Another concern was lack of resources to meet the demands. The Library has allocated ADP funds for resources related to civic engagement in the classroom. The list was e-mailed to faculty in order for faculty to request specific titles they are interested in. The library will then purchase resources and put together a bibliography of available resources for the fall. Looking at the NSSE data led to a good discussion in the ADP group and some further planning when using the data for program improvement.

Information from Higher Learning Commission annual meeting—implications for assessment & request for Assessment Council direction

Sharon Calhoon gathered some new models of peer review and year end reports at the HLC annual meeting. She and Kathy Ross are working on a new peer review model in order to increase the usefulness of feedback.

The timeline for moving toward accreditation is speeding up. Consultant evaluators will come to campus in spring 2009. The Self-study will need to be finished by spring 2008. Fall 2006 marks the beginning of an 18-month process to create a good self-study. Our campus needs to implement a process for disseminating assessment results to stakeholders and showing evidence that we are using results to inform program decisions. Council members discussed ways the programs could report campus-wide results, considering whether separate or consolidated reporting was preferable. Programs could create a summary paragraph of strengths and challenges in the nature of an executive summary or abstract--a condensed view of what the programs do well and what needs to be worked on. Council agreed that, in the fall, this summary paragraph can be added to the report format when it is being finalized by the Reports Subcommittee. Some aspects of the format need to be changed, anyway, because the current format is confusing for the reviewers when a program is assessing more than one outcome.

The Higher Learning Commission meeting conducts a “self-study share fair” where attendees can see many kinds of self-studies. Ellen Sigler suggested that the self study really *is* the accreditation. Reviewers will come to look at evidence of what the self-study reports. A good self-study makes clear what the school is doing. It is likely that some from the Assessment Council will serve on a working group for IU Kokomo’s self study and will be asked to attend the next Higher Learning Commission annual meeting (April 20 – 24, 2007).

Once program plans exist and the campus assessment process matures, the plans may not have to be collected annually. The reports may include adequate detail about the plans. This is not something to decide now, but it is a direction we may wish to go in the future.

The Council adjourned at 3:30 p.m.