

Memo

Date: May 14, 2008

To: Scott Jones, Faculty Senate Secretary

From: Angela Becker, Chair of Faculty Senate Assessment Committee

Re: Summary of Faculty Senate Assessment Committee Activities AY 2007-2008

Committee members: Angela H. Becker (SBSC), Karl Besel (SPEA), Minda Douglas (HUM),
Lea Gilbertson (NIMS), Gail MacKay (LIB), Kathy Parkison (BUS),
Margo Sorgman (EDUC), Mary Zody (NURS)

The first meeting of the Faculty Senate Assessment Committee was convened on Oct. 1 by Marilyn Kintzele, Faculty Senate President who charged the committee with the tasks of reviewing the 2005-2006 all-campus Assessment Report prepared by Dr. Sharon Calhoon (Director of the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment) and determining what, if anything, from that report should be conveyed to the Faculty Senate. A committee chair was selected and a date for a second meeting was set for October 18.

At the October 18 meeting, committee members discussed the all-campus report and based on that report generated a list of strengths and challenges that we thought should be presented as highlights of the report at a future faculty senate meeting. In addition, we found we had a few questions for Dr. Calhoon and asked for clarification via email (emailed questions and responses have been cut-pasted into this document on the following pages). The committee chair presented the committee's summary of strengths and weaknesses via a brief Power Point presentation at the Nov. 19th meeting of the Faculty Senate. A copy of both the 2005-2006 Assessment Report as well as a copy of the Power Point slides were included as attachments to the Nov. 19th Faculty Senate Agenda.

Email of Dr. Calhoon's responses to the committee's comments and questions:

Hi, Angie—

Thanks to the committee for such good comments/feedback. Below are my responses.

Sharon

From: Becker, Angela
Sent: Friday, November 09, 2007 11:52 AM
To: Calhoon, Sharon Kay
Subject: Questions from Faculty Senate Assessment Committee

Hi, Sharon

There were several questions that came out of our Faculty Senate Assessment Committee that I'm hoping you can help me with. Here they are:

1. Other than sending the 2005-2006 Assessment Report to the Faculty Senate Assessment Committee, will you be posting the report on the CTLA website or sending it out via email to anyone else? [The committee would like to submit the full report as an attachment to the Faculty Senate Agenda.]

I'd like to post the full report on our website. I wanted to get your committee's feedback first, though. If your committee is OK with the report as it stands, I'll post it.

2. On page 1 of the report, there is a paragraph describing Assessment Activities Reported. In that paragraph, some examples of assessment activities are mentioned and some examples of programs using these activities are given. One suggestion from our committee was that it might be helpful to see a matrix of activities that are being done...one that identifies each of the programs engaging in each activity. The reasoning behind the suggestion was that such a matrix would give interested individuals the information they need to know in order to look up the more detailed description of the activity used by that program in the full reports that are posted online.

An excellent suggestion! If it's OK with you, I would prefer doing that for the next report, rather than trying to go back through all the current reports to find this information.

3. On page 2 under Disseminating Results, you indicate that 10 of the 16 programs that turned reports provided links to their full assessment reports. The committee wondered why the other 6 did not...do you know?

I don't know why they didn't. I suspect that they forgot, or never got around to it, or didn't think it was important, or something like that. But that's all speculation. I don't really know.

4. Also, regarding the Disseminating Results section, if a program provided a summary but not a link to the full report, did the summary get posted?

Yes, we posted everything we were given. You can see it at <http://www.iuk.edu/%7Ekoctla/assessment/results.shtml>

5. The committee noticed your comments about the challenge in addressing dissemination of results and at least one committee member commented that dissemination should be larger, broader, and more diverse than a website. The committee was interested in your views about how this might be improved upon and wondered if you would be willing to address this. The

request comes, in part, because the committee was curious about your ideas and, in part, because we wondered if you would be willing to address this issue should questions come up when the committee presents its review of the report in Faculty Senate (we've requested time at the Nov. 19 meeting but have not yet heard if we're on the agenda).

Well, dissemination is always an issue, and not just for our campus! I'm not sure I have any good solutions to the problem. The Assessment Council clearly did not want to do more than what we are doing now, mainly because it would increase the workload. I'm willing to answer any questions that come up in Faculty Senate, but I don't think I should bring ideas to the Senate about how dissemination "should" happen. That would feel like I am going over the heads of the Assessment Council. But I'd be happy to discuss them with your committee, if you like.

I know you are very busy right now, so thanks in advance for taking time to address our questions.

Thank you very much for leading this committee, Angie. You've made this a true collaboration/partnership, and I very much appreciate that. I know you didn't need any more of a service burden, but I'm glad you elected to take this on.

Thanks,
Angie