

Assessment Council Meeting

October 10, 2007

2:30-3:45p.m. Havens Room

Present: Sharon Calhoon, Kathy Ross, Angela Becker, Mary Hansen, Scott Jones, Ann Cameron, Allen Safianow, Todd Bradley, Christian Chauret, Robin Symonds, Ellen Sigler, Lori Collins, Gail MacKay, Chris Rivers, Heidi Thomason, Marcia Andersen (secretarial support)

Symonds moved the minutes be approved. Hansen seconded. Minutes approved.

New members introduced: Christian Chauret (Biology), Todd Bradley (who will represent History/Political Science upon the retirement of Dr. Allen Safianow at the end of the semester).

Subcommittee Review and Assignments

The major work of the Council occurs in its subcommittees. Current subcommittee assignments were reviewed (see attached). General Education and Co-Curricular Subcommittees have enough members; Academic Plans and Academic Reports subcommittees need more members. The Academic Plans subcommittee is more active in the spring and the Academic Reports subcommittee is more active in the fall. Each Council member who is not currently a member of a subcommittee should inform the chair by Friday, October 12, re which subcommittee he/she would like to join. Sigler will move from Academic Reports to Academic Plans; Hansen will move from Academic Plans to Academic Reports.

All-Campus Assessment Report

Calhoon distributed a draft of the first all-campus assessment report. (Council members also received this draft prior to the meeting.) Sigler asked whether there is a standard format for such reports. Calhoon said there appear to be a couple of main types—one which consists of a spreadsheet of which programs had participated, whether they contained the most important information, etc. and the other which was more of a public-relations document which profiled a few disciplines' successes. Higher Learning Commission does not mandate a specific format for the all-campus report.

As there were no additions or corrections to the report brought forward at the meeting, Calhoon asked that council members inform her by Friday, October 12, of any changes they would like to make. At that time, the report will be forwarded to Angela Becker, who is the chair of the Faculty Senate Assessment Committee.

General Education Assessment Progress Report

Faculty volunteered the papers assigned to their classes in the spring. 20% of the papers volunteered were collected using a random sequence generator. A total of 41 papers were collected. The papers were de-identified and were reviewed by Karla Stouse and Nadene Keene using the Writing rubric developed for the B.G.S. eportfolio project. We are looking at discrepancies in evaluations to determine whether there is a need for a third reader. A report will go to Educational Policies Committee. Calhoon is

meeting with EPC on Friday, October 12, to talk about progress and to learn what the EPC plan is for general education assessment this academic year.

Assessment of Freshman Learning Communities

Each year CTLA funds one major all-campus assessment initiative. Two years ago it was the National Survey of Student Engagement; last year it was the LIBQual survey. Because the campus has greatly increased the number of students in the Freshman Learning Communities, CTLA will fund an assessment of student learning in those communities. University Information Technology Services is allowing us to pilot the Goal Management Tool (an eportfolio-like tool situated in Oncourse). Students in the Freshman Learning Communities, as well as students in stand-alone ENG W-131 courses, will upload their first and last assignments to Oncourse. Faculty volunteers will be trained to use the Writing rubric and will be paid to review a sample of these assignments (this will most likely occur in the late spring and early summer).

NSSE/USA Today Initiative

NSSE and USA Today have partnered to increase public awareness of the importance of student engagement to student success. USA Today will publish the 5 NSSE benchmark scores on their website, beginning November 4. Schools will not be ranked. Chancellor Person has agreed to permit our scores to be made public. The peer comparison group will be Baccalaureate-Diverse (the new Carnegie classification). We recognize that our peers are somewhat different than what we are, but with the increased calls for college accountability, campus leadership believed it to be in the best interest of the campus to release our results. USA Today will provide space for a URL pointing to our own webpage where we may present NSSE results in whatever manner we deem appropriate.

Announcement

Assessment reports are due October 31, 2007. Reviews will take place toward the end of the semester.

Becker moved that the meeting be adjourned. Hansen seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20p.m.

Assessment Council Subcommittees

Academic Plans: Becker, Collins, Greenwood, Hansen, Whitmore

This subcommittee develops the common format for academic assessment plans, reviews those plans and makes recommendations to academic departments concerning their plans.

Academic Reports: Chulkov, Hendricks, Sigler

This subcommittee develops the common format for academic assessment reports, reviews those reports, and makes recommendations to academic departments concerning their assessment reports.

Co-Curricular: Diesman, Rivers, Ross

This subcommittee develops the common format for co-curricular units' assessment plans and reports, review those assessment plans and reports, and make recommendations regarding those units' assessment activities.

General Education: Jones, MacKay, Symonds

This subcommittee provides guidance to and oversight of general education assessment at IU Kokomo. They review General Education assessment plans and reports, and serve as consultants/liaisons to faculty conducting general education assessment.

These Council members have not yet been assigned to a subcommittee: Bradley, Cameron, Chauret, Mosley, Thomason