

Academic Assessment Committee Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2012, 3:00pm

Provost's Conference Room, 239 Tigert Hall

Present: Timothy Brophy, Joanne Foss, Margaret Fields, Mark Law, Bernard Mair, Barbara Pace, Theresa Vernetson, Michael Weigold, Marie Zeglen, Sanford Berg

Guest: David Miller

January 10 2012, meeting minutes approval

A motion was made to approve the minutes. Mark seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion passed.

QEP Internationalization Assessment Development – David Miller

SLOs have been revisited to simplify and clarify. Haven't been able to find instruments for assessment. They are now in the process of developing these and will start looking at specifications to build assessments for SLO 2 and 3 at a meeting on Friday, February 17th and plan to have something to pilot Fall 2012. Sanford Berg offered to allow use of a course in the business school to test on a small scale. Bernard Mair voiced concern on how to test the implementation of knowledge of cultures. How can this be assessed? David Miller agreed that it is something to deal with. It could possibly involve an attitudinal component. It was also decided that these SLOs need to go through an approval process at some point. Tim Brophy posed the question of how to process institutional SLOs.

Gen Ed Assessment Committee – Theresa Vernetson

Theresa Vernetson explained that there are three categories (content, critical thinking, and communication) and some areas may have as many as 6 SLOs or as few as 3. The committee has been working on definitions for each type of SLO. Critical thinking and communication have been decided upon. They were presented and a suggestion to change the wording was made and was turned down. They have also developed drafts for rubrics for these categories. There will be a need to have a content rubric for each discipline. Tim Brophy had suggested a template for an assignment, but this was not agreed upon by the committee. For now it, faculty will decide on the assignment, but a template could be brought up for discussion. It has also been difficult to define "content." Examples of definitions are hard to find.

ALC Approval Guidelines – Mark Law

One suggestion for section 2 Assessment – change the wording "course grades are almost never appropriate..." to "Grades are rarely acceptable, but these are the conditions in which you can use grades..." A discussion on grades used as a measurement for assessment – grades are almost never appropriate because it's hard to find a course grade that assesses only one SLO. The wording for rubrics should also be changed to include that they are calibrated among scorers. While a rubric may be created by a group of faculty, usually only one faculty member is grading an assignment using the rubric. Ensuring consistency in scoring rubrics, training faculty on calibration would be necessary. The subcommittee will work on the new wording and send to Tim Brophy.

College Effectiveness Plan components – Timothy Brophy

Dr. Brophy explains that this plan would show what colleges do and make sure that goals align on all levels. He asked if the colleges had a system for reporting program goals and analysis at the college level. And, it was determined that this varies among the colleges. It was asked if degree programs could

be bundled into the department, but SACS specifies that it must be broken down by program. It was also suggested that *Plan* should be changed to *Process*. Plan indicates that there is one right way to do it, but process shows that it could vary. A workable way to effectively report to SACS must be created. The plan will go through the Dean's Advisory Board and is in draft form now.