

Learning Assessment Committee – Minutes September 30, 2014

1. The meeting started at 3:55.
2. All committee members introduced themselves and the committee chair mentioned some of last year's work: a charter and mission statement, faculty attending assessment conference.
3. Middle States Update:
 - a. Jennifer Lyden explained:
 - There are eight working groups assigned 1 – 2 Middle States standards.
 - Self-Study report shows that we meet the standards.
 - Working groups will research the questions and write a preliminary report which will be sent to the steering committee. The steering committee will write a final report.
 - Jennifer & Margaret Rodi are co-chairing the working group researching Standards 7 & 14.
 - Their working group includes faculty, academic support and administrators
 - b. Francis Schmidt brought up the Meadowlands campus as part of Standard 7. Did we look at the need for it?
 - c. Sony Tiwari discussed:
 - A.
 - Student working group: Most institutions place students into existing working groups. We decided to give students their own working group.
 - Student working group will focus on (among others): Gen Ed, Student Support Services
 - Student working group will meet bi-weekly and will present their research in mid-February to the other working groups and steering committee. Their work will be incorporated into the other working groups research.
 - There have been almost 10 student applications from students in Phi Theta Kappa, The Torch, SGA.
 - Concern for students is the time commitment.
 - Students will not be paid, but will get Service Learning Credit, opportunity to put this on their resumes and possible letters of recommendation.
 - We are looking for students from Ciarco and the Meadowlands, not from Professional Studies.
 - B.
 - Self-Study is in research stage.
 - Research reports will be due in May.

4. Drexel University Conference:
 - a. Denise Avrutik shared the topics discussed in two sessions of the conference, “Value: An Alternative to Standardized Tests” and “Creating a Dialog for Learning ...”
 - b. Jane Phelps shared her presentation at the conference, “Beyond the Classroom.”
 - She discussed assessment myths
 - The value of the BCC Speech competition
 - c. Responses to Jane included:
 - Larry Joel: are we assessing “select” students in the speech completion?
 - Maureen Ellis-Davis: the Meadowlands have a “roundtable” with faculty and students. Each time, more students join in the conversation – it is not assessed.
 - Mecheline Farhat: She organizes a Mock Trial with students at the Meadowlands – not assessed.
 - d. All of these demonstrate opportunities to assess beyond the classroom.

5. Gen Ed Assessment Summary:
 - a. Gail Fernandez touched on some of the results: Students are in the “developing” stage of the rubric used.
 - b. The evaluators had concerns about the uneven quality of assignments and the faculty expectations of students.
 - c. Discussion included:
 - Assignments are subjective. What is a good assignment? How do we get better assignments? Faculty give the assignments they want, but we may need buy-in from all department members.
 - We should assess the work done in capstone courses.
 - We need to look at grammar – students don’t think grammar is important.

6. LAC Focus 2014 – 2015
 - a. Possibilities include:
 - How to get a ____ grade student to ____ grade.
 - Assessing across the curriculum (Gen Ed is doing this and we have Writing Across the Curriculum led by Pamela Haji)
 - Developing quality / critical thinking assignments
 - How to help move our students forward

7. Meta-Analysis Summary:
 - a. Maria Kasparova spoke about the ALP assessment project using portfolios.
 - 4 essays, 1 reflection piece
 - The project wanted to show that keeping a portfolio would help students do better on the department exit test. It didn’t.
 - Problems with faculty involvement.

- b. Francis Schmidt explained how portfolios are used in art courses. Put the 2nd best work 1st and save the best work for last. He spends a lot of time explaining to students the importance of the order of the work.
 - c. Some members said they used portfolios differently from the way Francis does.
 - d. Dr. Kim explained why the ALP report was selected as exemplary:
 - It was not because of achieving outcomes. It was because they had a collective process and continued the project despite difficulties.
 - The project focused on how the ALP could assist students in passing the program.
8. Meeting adjourned at 5:10.

Submitted by Gail Fernandez