

LEARNING ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
December 15, 2015
Minutes

1. Meeting started at 4:00.
2. Congratulations to Denise Avrutik on her award for SOTL.
3. Middle States Update
 - a. Self-Study
 - i. Is nearing completion
 - ii. The visiting team will be coming in late February – early March
 - iii. As the time comes closer, talking points will be shared
 - b. Middle States Annual Conference: Some of the conversations at the conference addressed:
 - i. Emphasis on doing more with less
 - i. Streamlining courses and programs, smoother transitions between institutions
 - ii. New models of delivery:
 1. gen ed courses pay/month
 2. Moocs
 - a. They were originally for students who didn't have access to courses.
 - b. They will encourage competency based courses.
 - c. They may be used in conjunction with giving credits based on prior learning.
 - iii. Using instructional design to help faculty become more effective teachers
 - iv. Accountability is here to stay; College graduation rates are one measure of accountability (American Council on Education)
4. General Education Assessment:
 - a. Please send in student work for Intercultural Knowledge and Competence or Inquiry and Analysis
5. Shared revised Mission, Vision & Values Statements
6. Facilitating On-Time Student Completion (Dr. Kim)
 - a. How can we get students to graduate on time? Currently, we have a Chinese menu approach to taking classes – one from column A, one from column B... Students are lost in this system, yet we value it internally – we like choice. Students don't know how to find a straight path to completion.

- b. In the Middle States conference presentation, the speaker explained how each department was asked to describe their program and what the student experience would be.
- c. The speaker then explained how departments were asked what curriculum requirements would enable students to get that experience.
- d. Can we do this at Bergen?
- e. Some of the general responses:
 - i. Student voice is more important than faculty.
 - ii. Faculty always has informal conversations about content and making change to courses.
 - iii. We need better advising. Faculty advises because it's part of the contract, but we may not be helpful.
 - iv. Students don't read course/program descriptions.
 - v. Each discipline should tell their story and embed the most relevant Gen Ed courses into the program. In the Advising Center, we can color code the best Gen Ed courses for each program.
 - vi. A lot of conversation about programs is more relevant to a four year school. Students want to explore career options in a two year college.
 - vii. Is funding really gone? We need to change the conversation.
 - viii. Guided pathways are proven strategies.

7. Meeting adjourned at 5:00.

Submitted by Gail Fernandez