

Committee on Institutional Assessment
Wednesday, September 29, 2011
SC-206

Present: Jan Loft, Rhonda Bonnstetter, Wije Wijesiri, Jay Brown and Lori Baker.

Absent due to teaching schedules: Christine Olson and Nadine Schmidt and Tony Amato.

Guest: Betsy Desy, co-chair of sub-committee criterion IV of HLC Steering Committee.

1. Greetings and introduction of members.
2. We will want to find a meeting time that works for everyone or at least the majority. Are people willing to meet late in the afternoon, if teaching schedules allow? Kris Henspeter will try another Doodle for a day and time.

Update from the Center for Civic Engagement: (from Christine Olson)

“I wanted to let committee members know that we (Center for Civic Engagement student staff and members of the Faculty Advisory Committee) are pulling together a number of previous reports related to civic engagement for HLC purposes, along with identifying possible civic engagement measures that could be used in the First Year Seminar.

Finally, I wanted to note that Scott Peterson has just finished analyzing 2010 Civic Minded Graduate scale (which has been taken by a majority of graduating seniors for 3 consecutive years). By next summer we will have analyzed four years worth of CMG data (including 3 subscales---Knowledge, Dispositions and Behavioral Intentions), which will be good to have for HLC purposes. The CMG was developed at IUPUI and we have been updating our CMG questionnaire to be consistent with edits they have made to the original version. We would like to consider the possibility of beginning to use this measure with our incoming freshmen, since we already have set up an online means (via the Registration Office) of having students take this as they prepare to graduate. Seniors currently take the CMG along with the Senior Survey. It would be useful to begin to administer this in a pre/post-test manner”.

Lori Baker distributed a handout outlining the tasks for the HLC, the new criterion that will be used, members of the HLC Steering Committee and its sub-committees. There was general discussion on where the CIA will fit with all the work that will be done through the Steering Committee and the sub-committees, the Assessment Planning Committee and the LEC.

What was accomplished (CIA) in 2010-2011?

- Jay and Wiji crunched some numbers related to National Survey of Student Engagement.
- There are four major assessment tools; the plans were divided among members. (NSSE, CAT, CMG and CLA).
- We were mining the data to make sense of it. CAT scoring has been presented by Corey Butler, Wiji presented the CLA.
- Another sub-committee presented how far we are coming on the Assessment Plan modeled after Bemidji’s plan. (Note: a different plan will be explored).
- A timeline map was suggested.

Betsy inquired what the CIA had done up to this point. The HLC now uses the term “improvement” rather than assessment. The data collected from the CIA will fit nicely with several aspects needed within the HLC Criterion IV.

- Programs and Department reviews (CIA?)
- LEC more focused on the LEP assessment, the LEP as a whole.
- Betsy would develop a template for Programs and Departments to use as they develop an assessment and improvement plan

- Jay Brown shared the NSSE Improvement areas of 2008 (handout but he has an electronic version too). We were compared to cohort schools; Jay selected the figures that were significantly different, more than five percent.
- Rhonda Bonnsetter shared the suggestion we set up our assessment program by taking each of the tools, identified with aspects within our Outcomes and then explain how we will go about using the tools, triangulating data, how we will use more than one tool, etc. You would “grid out” which tool will be used for the Outcomes best related. We would “map” to the Outcomes.
- We need tables, and summaries (less narrative than the Bemidji model). There are good elements of the Bemidji model but it perhaps is not the best format for us to continue to use. Take the best parts and then integrate with the direction we go? The North Dakota plan is well liked.
- In the past a lot of time was spent discussing how to collect student data, using a “student driven model” where the students have an on-line portfolio where they are submitting their work, such as papers, etc that would be archived. This would collect data in another method outside of the four tools already named; the student driven data could complement the other tools.
- LiveText was discussed. This could be used from First Year Seminar on through a student’s SMSU career. The Mind, Body, Spirit could be recorded via this type of portfolio. The huge piece would be somehow requiring the students to participate.
- But, we still need to determine what it is we want to look at; no need to collect data we might not go after in the years to come. The portfolio seems as though it would be meaningful to the student.
- It would be the rubrics that would actually be used for the measurements of whether the students are learning what we want them to learn.
- D2L has something similar? But, D2L is course based rather than student based; collect the data before wiped clean? Students would not have to pay for the extra cost but if the system changes then what would happen?

Bottom line, we need a system for collecting this type of “over time tracking” material in conjunction with the rubrics. LiveText and D2L may someday be able to “talk” to each other. Technology is always changing but we need to enter somewhere and go with it.

- Betsy “sees” the CIA as the overall umbrella; the LEC with a handle on the LEP assessment, Program and Department assessment under the CIA, Grad Program plans under the CIA, NESSE and the other plans under the CIA; Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) do we still use this?; Student Affairs related to LEC Outcome 10; but also Student Affairs will have their own aspects.

Plans and Assignments:

1. It was determined that we will meet again in about two weeks.
2. Jan will discover who else is on the CIA outside of faculty.
3. Rhonda could demonstrate LiveText, invite as many as LEC for demonstration plus get someone from Student Affairs to attend to see this. Maybe invite Corey Butler for the demonstration?

Homework: North Dakota model should be reviewed; Wije will send the document. (Hi:

Attached is the report on CLA data. Link to CIA website is

<http://www.smsu.edu/Administration/Committees/CIA/>

Link to North Dakota Assessment Plan is in Resources.

Wije

4. Betsy would like to continue attending the CIA meetings.

Respectfully submitted:

Jan Loft