

Senate Assessment Council

Report to Senate Executive Committee, February 14th, 2013

Members: Kendall Martin, Kelly McNeal, Christopher Salerno, Ray Schwartz (Chair), Kelli Smith, Mahmoud Watad, Linda Refsland, and Jane Zeff.

A) Senate Assessment Council Charges for 2012-2013

- 1. Determine the administration's plan for assessing the UCC (if any) and determine how Assessment Council can collaborate with administration on this project.**

The Council noted that there is no formal committee charged by the provost for UCC assessment. There was an agreement with the Provost that a University Assessment Committee would be formed. The working group that developed the Assessment "Plan" recommended the appointment of a faculty member to lead the UCC assessment efforts. Additionally, the report "Assessment Plan for the University Core Curriculum" developed by the Assessment Working Group, November 2011 (referred to in the November 22, 2011 minutes of the Senate) is only a working draft and that does not include assessments instruments. The planned UCC Assessment Committee would create a final draft assessment plan. Presently, HSS has made a quasi-methodology available through their pilot project. Kathy Malanga is working on the selection of instruments. HSS did review course syllabi of HSS UCC courses to determine whether the appropriate outcomes were reflected in the syllabi. Dr. Murli Natrajan will continue to be the Director of the UCC until May 2013. The Council also discussed the University's status with Middle States concerning the assessment requirements. It was noted that a letter was sent to Middle States in April 2012 and that HSS's pilot assessment was included. Council members understand that UCC assessment would be on the program level and not course level.

- 2. Depending on the results of #1 above, work with UCC Council to develop and refine an assessment plan and protocols for the new UCC program.**

The Council recommends that a timeline for implementing the action plan be developed. Course development could be incentivized by stipends and/or grants. Consideration of Middle States Standard 7 (institutional effectiveness – benchmarks) and Standard 14 (student learning outcomes) must be included in the process. In addition, if an UCC Assessment Committee is not formed by the beginning of Fall 2013, the Council recommends the UCC Council establish an ad hoc assessment committee to take up some of the work until an official committee is formalized.

- 3. Assemble campus-wide assessment data, documents and initiatives for quick easy and comprehensive use by campus members and inform campus community of such.**

The Council is interested in reviewing software packages that can be used for review and assessment. We intend to start this process in the Fall semester.

The Council discussed dashboard indicators, and proposed that they be available on the Institutional Research & Assessment IR&A web page.

The Council recommends adopting an action plan which includes:

- a) Selection of instruments,
- b) Designing dashboard indicators for the Executive Board, and
- c) Devising implementation strategies.

B) Senate Assessment Council Standing Charges (www.wpunj.edu/dotAsset/318075.pdf)

1. Better articulate educational goals.

The Council believes that the University Core Curriculum Student Learning Objectives, from *“Assessment at William Paterson University: Plans and Program Improvements. Part 1: Promoting Academic Success Through Program Assessment Efforts.”*

<http://www.wpunj.edu/dotAsset/9f1919c9-75a4-4442-851e-842be9e66a59.pdf> Page 7, express the educational goals of the University.

“Upon completing a degree at William Paterson University students will be able to:

- * Effectively express themselves in written and oral form,
- * Demonstrate ability to think critically,
- * Locate and use information,
- * Demonstrate ability to integrate knowledge and ideas in a coherent and meaningful manner,
- * Work effectively with others.”

2. Provide means for collecting information on the progress towards the goals.

Concerning the UCC, the UCC Council is developing a web-based assessment instrument of UCC Program Outcome 5. The Assessment Council will provide feedback on the process once this is completed.

Concerning collecting information in general (as was mentioned in Charge A3), the Council is interested in reviewing software packages that can be used for review and assessment. We intend to start this process in the Fall semester. And the Council discussed dashboard indicators, and proposed that they be available on the Institutional Research & Assessment IR&A web page.

3. Disseminate results to faculty and staff involved, who will consider possible modifications in that which has been assessed.

See Charge A3.

Respectfully,
Faculty Senate Assessment Council