

Assessment Taskforce
February 27, 2009
10:00 a.m.
Building 6 Blue Room

Members present were: Kathy Ackerman, Elisabeth Barrows, Becky Cleland, Jeremiah Council, Rhonda Davis, Kim Gold, Donna Hood, Karen Jones, Terry McEntire, Tommy Tucker, Charles Wiggins, and Robin Wiggins

Kim mentioned that the minutes from our last meeting are forthcoming.

A workshop for convocation was discussed. There is a need for faculty to learn about rubrics and basic assessment concepts. Rhonda will talk to Sarah Kilgo and Rebecca Haney for suggestions regarding what information would be helpful for new faculty. Terry offered to talk to new faculty in Arts and Sciences and Applied Sciences.

We discussed adjunct participation in professional development. Jeremiah mentioned that it could be helpful to offer a small stipend. The challenges of getting the word to adjuncts were also discussed. Elisabeth and Terry offered to spearhead organizing efforts to offer an August workshop about rubrics and assessment concepts.

The Diverse Historical and Cultural Perspectives rubric was discussed. We received feedback in the fall that the rubric is not user friendly. It needs to be more practical. This group needs to reconvene and try and improve this rubric so that it will be more widely used. Brett Parker will need to be involved. Volunteers were Kathy Ackerman and Jeremiah Council.

The website was discussed. More information about assessment needs to be available. We also need to video the Portfolio Workshop and make it available. Kim has a FAQ which could be used as a starting point.

Elisabeth distributed information regarding assessment of portfolio workshops and the graduate portfolio assignment. Kim mentioned that other areas, e.g., Academic Development and nursing, should be given the opportunity to facilitate portfolio workshops.

It was very impressive that 182 students attended a portfolio workshop in the fall. Kathy mentioned that it would be helpful to have a sample portfolio on the website. However, it will be important to exclude student names and any other personally identifiable information.

Elisabeth discussed the need to update the tabs which are included in the ACA book. More tabs are needed. This will be discussed by the ACA Steering Committee along with the need to encourage students to use the tabs. Students often forget. A handout needs to be developed to explain these competencies. This may also be included in the Student Handbook and on the assessment website. Elisabeth is working on this.

The timing for portfolio workshops was set for March 30 – April 3. We also discussed setting these times in the next academic year so that it can be included in the Student Handbook Calendar.

Kim mentioned that we need portfolio workshops for students who are just starting and those who are polishing. The possibility of making an introductory video available to ACA students was discussed.

Are we are moving forward with the student portfolio award? The QEP Steering Committee plans to work on this effort. Rhonda mentioned that May 1 is award's day.

Kim reviewed a service area website model. Google Kellog Foundation Logic Model if you want to pursue further information. Donna Hood mentioned that Con. Ed. is working on their mission. The library is also working on their assessment process. They hope to focus on specific areas and simplify their process.

The need to survey online students about service areas (student services and the library) was emphasized. This is specifically required by SACS, and even more importantly we want to know how we are doing in our efforts to serve this population.

We discussed the need to discuss assessment techniques and encourage the use of a variety of assessment techniques beyond surveys. The structure and content of our surveys also needs to be examined.

Tommy discussed academic integrity. A small group has explored a survey of students to learn more about how students perceive academic integrity and whether or not it is widespread. How different age groups perceive academic integrity was discussed. For example, younger students have worked more in groups, and it may be more important to clearly communicate guidelines to these students.

There has not been any progress at this time related to staff evaluation due to more pressing priorities.

Kim discussed scheduling our next college-wide assessment meeting. Rubrics need to be reviewed. We have not chosen a rubric to highlight next year. We've also considered a focus on critical thinking and problem solving. We have not highlighted this rubric or the rubric on computer, reading/speaking/listening, or quantitative skills. Kim mentioned that the competencies can be linked back to CCSSE results. Assessment in IT may be highlighted at the college-wide meeting. Vicki Covington was mentioned as a resource person for reading, and Steve Hollifield was suggested as a resource person for problem solving. Elisabeth will share information about portfolio the half sheet. Kim mentioned that we may try to repeat an assessment of rubric usage which was used several years ago.

Monday, March 30 was established as the date for the next college wide assessment meeting. The time will be 3:00 p.m.

Karen will note the college-wide meeting, portfolio week, and the next meeting time on the Google College Calendar. The next meeting time is 2:00pm on Thursday, March 19. It will be held in the Blue Room unless we hear differently.