

Assessment Taskforce  
March 19, 2009  
2:00 p.m.  
Building 6 Blue Room

Members present were: Kathy Ackerman, Rhonda Davis, Kim Gold, Karen Jones, Tommy Tucker, Kelly Dedmon, Charles Wiggins, and Robin Wiggins.

Kim distributed a proposed agenda for the upcoming college-wide assessment meeting. This meeting is scheduled for March 30 at 3:00pm.

A “Student Portfolio Reflection Survey” was distributed. This would be a good tool for instructors. There was discussion regarding how this survey could be managed in the classroom. It was agreed that the survey could be a good reminder for faculty to talk to students about their portfolios. It was also agreed that the survey needs to be greatly simplified and designed for quick completion. It should be more of a survey of student progress as opposed to a reflection. DHCP also needs to be added. The name of this competency may be changed to “Global Awareness.” A small group is working on this competency.

Karen mentioned that ACA Steering had discussed providing a cover sheet for the ACA book which would allow students to use the ACA book as their portfolio. The committee members liked the idea. Robin mentioned that she had e-mailed Susan Straw about re-configuring the tabs and providing a portfolio cover sheet in the front pocket.

The committee reviewed two potential surveys for the upcoming meeting. It was initially determined that we should do only the General Ed Competency Rubric at the meeting. After further discussion we decided to simplify the contents of both surveys into 1 single survey. We discussed how the surveys could be edited accordingly. We also discussed how we could use the survey to gain input related to the rubric awareness workshop which is being planned for August.

Karen reviewed statistics related to academic dishonesty. There were fourteen incidents in 2008 involving 24 students. Twelve students were charged with plagiarism and two cheating. In terms of sanctions, five students failed the class, six failed the assignment, and three were warned. There was one repeat offender identified through the process. Plagiarism appears to be the biggest issue. Committee members discussed why this may be the case. Writing assignments are readily available and free of charge on the Internet. This can prove overwhelmingly tempting for often panic stricken students. There is also confusion related to what constitutes cheating as many students are accustomed to working as part of a group. It was mentioned that faculty need to be aware of the academic dishonesty reporting process and encouraged to report incidents. The need for professional development related to how faculty can educate/avoid plagiarism in the classroom was discussed. It was mentioned that efforts should be proactive and focus on education and awareness. This is another idea for a possible future workshop sponsored by the Assessment Taskforce.

