

Assessment Taskforce
September 26, 2008

Members present were: Elisabeth Barrows, Karen Jones, Kim Gold, Vicki Covington, Rhonda Davis, Donna Hood, Robin Wiggins, Charles Wiggins, Jo James, Kelly Dedmon, Tommy Tucker, Terry McEntire, Becky Cleland, Tim Beaver, and Jeremiah Council.

Kim distributed a handout detailing 7 objectives which were established at our previous meeting.

Terry volunteered to work on objective #1 which involves Writing and Diverse Cultural Perspectives. We discussed having a college wide meeting to focus on these competencies. Faculty need to be encouraged to use these rubrics. We may consider a combined meeting between Assessment and Learning Strategies. It was emphasized that a cooperative learning approach would be favored as these type meetings are much more practical and well received by faculty and staff. Monday, November 3 was identified as a date for a college-wide meeting. Elisabeth, Vickie, Terry, Tommy, and Jeremiah volunteered to organize this college-wide meeting with a focus on Writing and Diverse Cultural Perspectives. Kim will reserve the Foundation Lobby for this event.

CCSSE results were discussed. The data needs to be distributed campus wide. Kim and Robin will get together and report back at our next meeting.

Next year we may focus on computer skills and problem solving given the current emphasis on distance learning and critical thinking.

Objective #3 relates back to sharing assessment information with part-time employees. SACS indicated that this was an area where improvement was needed in regards to adjunct faculty specifically. There was a lot of discussion related to how we may involve adjunct faculty with assessment.

#4 was discussed next. There are service areas which need to more fully develop assessment efforts. Kim suggested that a service area group needs to convene to share ideas. Kim and Pat will get together and discuss organizing this effort. One important step will be consolidating the surveys which are used by various service areas. The assessment of academic advising was also mentioned.

We touched on #5 which is supporting student portfolios. Barbara Peterson was instrumental in this effort, and she is now retired. Our new leader is Elisabeth Barrows in cooperation with the English Department. Portfolios are created in the second literature class, but there are difficulties with this arrangement. Business Sciences students do their portfolios in the World of Work class. In the Applied Sciences area the portfolios are compiled in their end of program classes.

Elisabeth is going to train other faculty to do the portfolio workshops. The deans need to identify volunteers from each area. The timing of portfolio week was identified as November 17-21. Four workshops will be offered that week.

The 6th objective relates to Academic Integrity. What is the next step? A student survey was suggested. Erin Riddle is doing a lot of research on this subject through her graduate study. It was noted that a system has been developed to compile information about academic dishonesty, and the system appears to be working. Tommy volunteered to spearhead putting together a survey of students related to academic dishonesty.

The last objective relates to the staff evaluation process. Do we need to consider self assessment for all employees? Cindy Moore is working on this effort. It has been difficult to get participation in this endeavor. The Professional Development Task Force is a potential area where this effort could be addressed.

Kim is still working on the development of an Assessment Calendar for the campus. All faculty and staff need to send information to Kim related to surveys which are conducted on campus.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, October 24 at 9:00 a.m. in the Blue Room.