

Assessment Committee

February 16, 2009

Minutes

Present: Theo Addo, Beth Chung-Herera, Dave Ely, Heather Honea, Kathy Krentler, Lois Olson, Mehdi Salehizadeh, Carol Venable

1. University Reports

Krentler reminded the committee that reports are due to the university SLO Committee on March 27, 2009. A soft date of March 11 has been set to submit reports to Krentler for reading and feedback.

2. MSBA

Enrollment in MSBA programs has decreased since the changes to the MBA program took effect in Fall 2008. Questions have arisen regarding whether it is appropriate or necessary to continue assessing MSBA programs in light of dwindling student enrollment in the programs. Krentler posed this question on the AACSB Assessment listserv however no definitive answer was received. The committee agreed that the best strategy is to continue assessing any given program unless there is a clear plan to eliminate it. Further it was generally agreed that if an established assessment process is in place in a given program it makes sense to continue the effort as long as a fair number of students remain in the program.

3. Plans and Formats

Assessment plans for all CBA programs are being adapted to a common format that places them in an outline format and includes a time line and curriculum map.

4. Master SLO Lists

Master lists of student learning outcomes for all courses by department are being developed. These lists will be placed on the CBA Assessment website as well as appropriate departmental websites. Faculty members are encouraged to alert their Assessment Committee representative if changes are made to their course-level SLOs so that lists may be kept up to date.

5. Website Update

The committee took a look at an update that is underway for the CBA Assessment website. The update includes a page for each program in the college. Discussion took place regarding what information and materials should be placed on the program pages. It was agreed that program goals and student learning outcomes as well as the programmatic assessment plans should be included and accessible to all. Additionally, assessment results, university assessment reports, and report responses should be placed

on the pages. These latter materials, however, should be password protected and made available only internally within the CBA.

6. Loop Closing

Discussion regarding possible loop closing activities following from some college-wide assessment results took place. Krentler described an oral communication skills exercise that is being considered by the IDS 290 faculty (see details in the Undergraduate Committee Minutes for 2-11-09) in response to the assessment of these skills which took place in the undergraduate program in Fall semester 2008. Plans to use WPA test scores as a measure of our undergraduate students' writing skills was also discussed. Using WPA scores provides the benefit that a loop closing activity is currently built into the assessment. Students scoring lower than a 10 (out of 12) on the WPA are required to complete one (or in some cases two) additional writing courses.

7. Culture Issues

The committee discussed the challenge of assessment in the light of current and anticipated budget scenarios. It was agreed that the focus of efforts in the upcoming year should be on how assessment efforts can aid faculty members in what they do rather than on what is needed from faculty. The development and distribution of the CBA Written and Oral Communication rubrics are examples of the former approach. The Assessment Committee will continue to look for ways to support faculty members through assessment while attempting to minimize demands on individual faculty members.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 9, 11:45 – 1:45; Dean's Conference Room