

Assessment Task Force Meeting February 23, 2007

MINUTES:

Present: Barri Tinkler, Ed Magee, Gordon DeMeritt, John Adams, John Sheridan, Laura Renninger, Linda Dunn, Sandra VanMeter (for Kimberly Scranage)

Not Present: Karen Green, Peter Vila, Rhonda Smith

Meeting began at 2:05pm with a discussion of the revisions that were made to the Alumni Association Assessment Plan. The plan now includes BOG and staff goals. The plan was unanimously approved.

Laura Renninger gave information on CLA 1st Round Results and MAPP test results from 2005-2006 testing. For the CLA, we tested freshmen and seniors with this value-added, critical thinking assessment. The MAPP test tested sophomores on general studies academic performance. Scores are low in all areas on all tests, especially math scores and critical thinking. Discussion focused on how we can use these scores to make improvements in all subject areas across campus. The following suggestions were made:

- Stretch model courses may help raise scores in math and other subjects
- Tests should be given in a capstone course or embedded in a regular course to ensure student's willingly participate and perform to the best of their ability.
- Tests should not be given during Freshmen Orientation as the CLA was in August.
- We should initiate a campus-wide discussion on "What Does it Mean to Teach Critical Thinking?"
- Communicate the importance of testing and performance to students
- Make data and results available to campus to increase/raise culture of assessment.
- Gather more data; do more comparing to really reflect on results.
- John Sheridan asked what percentage of students rate as "proficient" in other schools. Perhaps a low percentage is more common than we think, although he stressed that this does not excuse our results nor should it influence our goal to improve results. Both of these tests are useful diagnostic evaluation tools.

Dr. Renninger informed the committee that both tests would be given again in March 2007 and we hope to see better results this time around. Once we see how our students perform this year we can proceed with the discussion of how to use this information.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Minutes recorded and reported by Shannon Holliday