

Assessment Committee Meeting
April 27, 2012
John Spotts Room

Members Present: Maribea Barnes, Loukia Dixon, Janet Dooley, Andrew Gooding, Nicki LoCascio, Rex McClure, David Pittenger, Mary Beth Reynolds, Celene Seymour, Sherri Stepp

Ex-Officio Members Present: Jenny Lauhon, Doug Nichols, Larry Sheret, Sherri Smith

Members Absent: Janet Dozer, Wayne Elmore, Ray Harrell, Caroline Perkins, Bill Pierson, Louis Watts

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Chris Green, Frances Hensley

Agenda Items

1. Minutes of the February 6, 2012 meeting were approved as submitted.
2. **Announcements:**
 - ***Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) Update:***
 - Mary Beth Reynolds announced that *CLA* testing for seniors is complete for the current academic year. Only 83 (17 shy of our goal of 100) seniors completed the assessment. We need to think about new strategies to increase this number and to make sure our samples are as representative of our graduating senior population as possible.
 - Mary Beth announced the upcoming *CLA Performance Task Academy*, which will be held at Marshall in June. Faculty attending the Academy will develop problem-based performance tasks they can use in the classroom, i.e. this academy will emphasize the importance of integrating pedagogy and assessment. Currently, five first-year seminar (FYS) instructors have committed to attend and will develop problem-based performance tasks to be used in FYS sections. These tasks will be used in instruction and in final assessment of student learning in the course. In August 2102, entering freshmen attending Week of Welcome (WOW) also will complete either one of the problem-based performance tasks created by the FYS faculty workgroup or the *CLA*, with students being randomly assigned to one task or the other. This will provide a random sample of freshmen to provide Marshall's *CLA* baseline performance. The problem-based performance task completed by the remainder of the freshmen will provide additional information regarding our students' entering abilities in problem-solving, analytic reasoning and writing skills. In addition to the five FYS faculty attending the *CLA Performance Task Academy*, we would like to invite faculty teaching capstone courses to do so. Mary Beth asked the committee to share information about the Academy within their respective colleges. She will follow-up with an email to deans and committee members with additional details.
 - ***National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Update:*** To date Marshall's response rate for *NSSE* is about 21.5%. This is down over previous years. Our final drawing for six additional prizes will be held within a week.

- **Program Assessment Report Update:** Mary Beth is compiling information regarding program assessment reports for academic year 2011 – 2012 and will report results at the first meeting held in fall 2012.
- **Program Review Update:** Twenty programs were reviewed for this year's Program Review. Of those, four programs were discontinued, two were recommended to continue with corrective action, and fourteen were recommended to continue at their current levels of activity. Members discussed piloting an abbreviated program review template for programs with outside professional accreditations.
- **General Education Update:** Twenty-one faculty members worked with Sherri Smith, Chris Green, and Mary Beth Reynolds to revise domains of thinking, create learning outcomes and rubrics for general education. Currently, Sherri, Chris, and Mary Beth are finalizing the proposal, which will then go out for comment to the other committee members and then will be brought before the Assessment Committee at its first meeting in the fall of 2012.
- **Graduation Survey Update:** The preliminary response rate to spring graduation surveys is about 33%.
- **Open Pathways Demonstration Project Update:** Programs completed Activity 1 in mid-March and Activity 2 will be complete by mid-May. Overall, feedback regarding the project has been positive. David Pittenger reported that faculty from the College of Liberal Arts felt the Open Pathways workshops had been helpful and they appreciated the opportunity to provide feedback to the Lumina Foundation on how it might improve its degree profile. Mary Beth reminded everyone that, on May 9, the MU Online Design Center will be open for anyone who would like help entering their program outcome rubrics into Blackboard. Also, she asked members to let programs know that if a program would like to set up a community within Blackboard to contact Kathy Saville.

3. Assessment Day Report:

- The Faculty Rubric Workshop held on Assessment Day was well attended (64 faculty representing five colleges). The Student Focus Groups were less attended this year (23 students) than last (67 students). The Libraries also had focus groups that were sparsely attended. On the other hand, departmental events were well attended.
- David Pittenger requested that the committee consider changing the date and date Assessment Day occurs each year. Specifically, he asked if it could occur on either a Tuesday or a Thursday and if it could occur later in the semester to allow presentation, and assessment of, students' capstone projects. After discussion, it was moved that Assessment Day be changed to the second Tuesday in April beginning in 2014. The motion passed unanimously. Mary Beth agreed to notify the University's Calendar Committee of this recommended change.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Lauhon

Jenny Lauhon, Recording Secretary