

**University Assessment Council
NSSE Survey's Subcommittee
Minutes**

Wednesday, April 2, 2003
105-K ATRC
3:30 p.m.

Present: P. Bowers, A. Carlozzi, G. Gates, K. Kelsey, J. Locke, S Ownbey, C. Reichard J. Wallin, T. Magness, B. Masters, K.K. for B. Lacy

Announcements:

1. Full meeting of the Assessment Council is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6th, 3:30 to 5:00 pm, 419 Student Union.
2. NSSE full report – gender comparisons study (Council members received report showing OSU NSSE data summarized by gender, with statistical comparison of responses between men and women on each survey item).
3. 'What We're Learning About Student Engagement from NSSE', Kuh, 2003 (article provided to Council members for additional information)
4. The NSSE perspective and prospective students (information on the 'What you should know before you go' brochure developed by NSSE for prospective students and their parents, guiding prospective students to use NSSE-type concepts and information in evaluating and comparing colleges)

Agenda:

1. Sharing NSSE Results with OSU Leaders. Wallin reported that NSSE results have been shared with the following OSU groups:

Instruction Council – February 7 and March 14, 2003

Jack Vitek, Interim Associate VP for Academic Affairs – February 14, 2003

Student Affairs Unit Heads – March 11, 2003

Dean's Council – March 13, 2003

Faculty Council – April 8, 2003

Directors of Student Academic Services – April 9, 2003

Wallin asked for input regarding the upcoming Faculty Council presentation. The committee suggested that Faculty Council be given a roster list of Assessment Council members and the ideas that led to the development of their Recommendations in response to the survey findings.

2. "Coping" with NSSE results. Wallin described a common pattern of response when NSSE information is shared with administrative and faculty groups:
disappointment → denial → blame → self study → resolution → change/improvement

The committee discussed the importance of emphasizing that not all of the NSSE information is bad news, and many aspects of the results were not unexpected. There are some very positive results to share with campus leaders and constituents as well as students and prospective students. Wallin shared information regarding the NSSE spring 2003 "Pilot Test of the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement" and other areas where the national NSSE administration is

making an impact on accountability in higher education. It is important to educate faculty and administrators on the value of the NSSE results. Among other things, the NSSE is very likely to be a topic raised by the HLC consultant-evaluators during OSU's 2005 re-accreditation review, and the NSSE also may provide useful benchmarks for strategic planning.

Pam Bowers then shared a DRAFT copy of the 2002 CIRP Freshman Survey results. OSU has participated in this survey for many years the results from this survey corroborate the NSSE survey results.

3. Drilling Down with NSSE – collecting more data related to NSSE topics at the unit-level. Wallin reported that information has been provided to colleges regarding how they can develop their own 'local' NSSE survey to obtain additional data at the program-level. Colleges that are actively pursuing projects to collect additional NSSE survey data are the College of Education, College of Human Environmental Sciences, and College of Business Administration, and the Honors Colleges. Kelsey reported that the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources planned to discuss the NSSE results at their next college curriculum meeting.

4. Maintaining momentum. The committee discussed ways to continue the momentum of the NSSE results and how best to disseminate the information among peers.

Adjourned: 4:45 p.m.