

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

Thursday, February 20, 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 to 5:00 pm, 419 Student Union.
2. NSSE full report – gender comparisons study
3. 'What We're Learning About Student Engagement from NSSE', Kuh, 2003
4. The NSSE perspective and prospective students

**Agenda:**

1. 2002 NSSE Results for OSU

-Communicating Results  
-Acting on Results

The committee received the completed report for the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). J.Wallin noted after the committees input that the report now reflected results from 2000 and 2002 data on page 21 for comparison.

The committee was asked to respond to the results of the survey via email discussion and to identify what the next steps should be in utilizing the information.

J. Wallin summarized the topics of discussion as shown on the attached page, 'Recommendations from the Assessment Council and Office of University Assessment regarding OSU Results from the 2002 NSSE'.

J. Wallin encouraged committee members to review the results and to share information among faculty groups and program leaders. To obtain a more sufficient sample sizes to make college- or program-level evaluations, some of the NSSE survey questions could be integrated into locally developed surveys; assessment funds could be used to support this effort. The Zoology department has already done this.

Disseminating the results of the NSSE to faculty Council and key administrators was discussed. J. Wallin stated that College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources CASNR had already used the information in their departmental meetings.

Adjourned: 4:45 p.m.

Next meetings:

4-2-03

5-6-03 Full Council meeting

### **OSU Results from the 2002 NSSE**

#### **Recommendations from the Assessment Council and Office of University Assessment February 20, 2003**

After reviewing the OSU results from the 2002 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and similar findings from OSU's participation in this survey in 2000, the Assessment Council and the Office of University Assessment recommend the following actions:

1. The NSSE findings should be considered in strategic planning at the university-, college-, and program-levels. NSSE results should provide benchmarks for measuring the successful implementation of portions of those strategic plans. The strategic plans should include initiatives to improve student engagement in areas related to
  - Level of Academic Challenge,
  - Active and Collaborative Learning,
  - Student-Faculty Interactions, and
  - Enriching Educational Experiences.

In each of these areas, OSU seniors lag behind students at similar doctoral / research institutions. Even when OSU data are adjusted to account for the students' academic profile, our performance lags behind the expected level of OSU achievement.

2. Each undergraduate college should develop a plan to respond to areas of concern identified in the NSSE, particularly areas related to 'Level of Academic Challenge' and 'Enriching Educational Experiences'.
  - Using the NSSE results as a guideline, colleges or units should identify strengths and potential areas for improvement regarding student engagement.
  - Colleges or units should examine additional sources of information about student engagement so that a variety of information sources may contribute to understanding the level of student engagement at the program-level.
  - Colleges or units should consider developing student surveys to collect additional data related to the NSSE survey items. The surveys could include questions identical to the NSSE questions as well as questions related to program-specific concerns. Assessment funds are available to support this effort. The Assessment Office will work with the Bureau for Social Research or University Testing Services to develop efficient mechanisms for implementing these surveys.
  - Colleges or units should identify short- and long-term modifications that would enhance areas of student engagement in their program(s).
3. OSU should provide resources to engage faculty in professional development that will contribute to adjusting or enhancing paradigms regarding the engagement of students. Professional development opportunities should be available to train faculty to integrate more enriching educational experiences in the classroom.
4. The University should demonstrate its commitment to high quality teaching by frequently recognizing, honoring, and rewarding outstanding teachers and outstanding teaching practices

that engage students more fully. The criteria for the Regents' Distinguished Teaching Award should be modified to address student engagement.

5. The General Education Advisory Council should modify the general education course requirements to respond to specific concerns identified in the NSSE. In particular, general education courses should enhance students' experiences related to writing, cultural diversity, and use of technology.

6. NSSE results should be communicated to leadership at OSU-Tulsa because of the rapidly expanding undergraduate programs on that campus and potential differences in undergraduate experiences for students whose courses may have a different instructional format.

7. NSSE results should be shared with faculty, beginning with a Faculty Council presentation. Suggestions could be made to faculty during the presentation to directly address particular NSSE topics such as diversity and use of technology.

8. OSU's response to NSSE findings from 2000 and 2002 will be considered during OSU's 2005 re-accreditation review with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC/NCA). We now have data and, therefore, must demonstrate how we will respond.