



**UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT
ASSESSMENT AND ACADEMIC
IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL
MINUTES
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND
1:30 PM, 301 WILLARD**

Present: Brown, Comer, Damron, Fry, Hathcoat, Hawkins, Neurohr for Paustenbaugh, Nicholas, Ownbey, Penn, Porter, Swinney, Thompson

Absent: DeVuyst, Edwards, Gelder, Haseley, McDaniel, Paustenbaugh, Van Delinder, Weiser, Wilber, Wikle

1. Introductions of Assessment Council Members were made.

2. Discussion and overview of Dr. Sternberg's article, *Are Universities doing their jobs?* Penn asked for thoughts about the article that related to AAIC or assessment at OSU. Several members mentioned that we use more indirect methods of collecting samples - direct collection methods are not implemented to the extent desired.

Also, Hawkins recommended that we contact recruiters to find out what our graduates are lacking, what we need to work on, and so on. She mentioned a recent survey that was released showing OSU in the top 45 in desirability from corporate recruiters.

Nicholas shared some of his experience from a study he worked with in Cincinnati. When researchers compared the CLA and portfolios they found little to no correlation between the two, raising questions on the use of summative standardized approach which may not reflect how faculty use of assessment in the classroom.

The heavy role for writing in general education was also discussed. It may be that we are gathering incomplete data in some of the other general education areas because we limit our assessment to written student work. CAGE will discuss this issue more once it meets later this fall.

Swinney described her work with gathering information from internship supervisors (as opposed to employers).

3. Assessment and Academic Improvement Council mission statement was approved last spring. As a result, the next step is to elect a chair for AAIC. AAIC members agreed to email nominations to Jeremy Penn before next AAIC meeting. At next meeting, a vote will be received.

4. Penn announced possible members for CAGE as nominated by the colleges. AAIC discussed whether or not a specific tenure status was required (e.g., tenure-track or tenured) for service on CAGE. Upon review of the CAGE structure document, it simply states "faculty member," which can be determined by the college. Bayles, Comer, Gelder, Miller, and Wilber were approved as members of the Committee for the Assessment of General Education, per motion by Thompson and approval of AAIC. The Human Sciences member is still pending per announcement from college.

5. Penn updated AAIC on NSSE and BCSSE survey results.

692 freshmen completed the BCSSE survey and 50 students partially completed the survey. The students were entered into a drawing to win one of two gift cards for

completing the survey. The results of the survey will be ready in late October or early November.

Penn announced that NSSE will start in January and will include all freshmen and seniors. With the NSSE results there is the possibility to join other schools to add create a consortium with a set of questions would be asked to students. The consortium would need to at least include 6 schools. Some questions that AAIC suggested be included were:

- General Education and Retention questions.
- Retention rates according to majors and students.
- Questions to students on why they kept attending OSU?
- How to improve student resources.
- What struggles that the student had.
- Are transfer students less likely to change majors?
- How are structures and student programs affecting student retention?

Hathcoat described a program evaluation he was working on for the Jump start program. This program had high retention rates and his program evaluation, which includes focus groups, could be modified to identify some of the reasons why students decided to stay at OSU. Penn suggested Hathcoat attend the retention task force meeting later in September to more fully explore these ideas.

6. Damron updated AAIC on what the General Education Task Force will accomplish. The task force will also look at the current implementation of General Education Assessment and how it could be changed or improved.

7. Penn updated AAIC on the ALEKS system to that will possibly replace or enhance the current math placement process for OSU. There is a Advisory Committee that is meeting to talk through the implementation issues and challenges. A pilot of the system will begin in the fall of 2011.

8. Penn shared results from the ETS PP exam. 161 freshman and 137 seniors took the exam, with seniors finishing at the "above expected" level in both CT and WR, and freshmen finishing "at expected."

9. Finally, Penn reminded the group that all Annual Assessment Reports are due on September 30th (the last Friday in September).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.