



## Assessment & Academic Improvement Council

Friday, March 6, 2015 • 1:30pm • 265 Student Union Ballroom

### Meeting Minutes

#### 1. Introductions and Call to Order.

Present were: C. Johnson, B. Davis, B. Crauder for T. Wikle, J. Nalon, S. Ownbey, B. Masters, C. Ippoliti, L. Cota, J. Knecht, J. Comer, R. Singh, G. Fox, J. Gelder, S Haseley, Jon Comer, B. Ryan, C. Beier, M. Bayles, K. Baum, B. Miller, K. Flaherty, and R. Rohrs.

Absent were: C. Campbell, S. Damron, P. Fry, J. Swinney, C. Hawkins, K. Neurohr, K. Clinkenbeard, S. Gordon, and D. Hobson.

Dr. Carol Johnson, AAIC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

First order of business: Dr. Johnson suggested tabling the vote on the February minutes to make minor corrections and add information from the email voting on Handouts 2 and 3 from the February meeting.

- 2. Presentation of Findings from the 2013-2014 General Education Assessment—Written Communication and Critical Thinking Results.** L. Cota discussed a summary of information from the report to save time. In years past, OSU has used its own rubrics. This year OSU switched to rubrics from the AACU. The biggest change is in scoring. OSU went from a 1-5 point scale to a 0-4 point scale, eliminating the mid-range score, which meant raters had to go one direction or the other—their responses could not all be straight down the middle. OSU also reports to the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA). VSA reporting is mandatory for all land grant institutions. In previous years OSU reported the ETS proficiency profile. The VSA allowed OSU to use the AACU rubrics, which allowed us to use the same rating system for both VSA and the Higher Learning Commission. The full report was included in the packets distributed. In the distribution of scores we had 674 total artifacts, and while the VSA prefers 350 seniors and 350 freshmen, we were just short on seniors. J. Comer stated that, with the results we gather now, we can only compare how the current freshmen are doing compared to the current seniors. In the future we hope to be able to assess today's freshmen with their results when they are seniors in 2017. For now, the reporting we do meets the needs of OSU, HLC, and VSA.
- 3. Discussion of 2013-2014 General Education Assessment Findings.** We collected about 900 artifacts. GPA's were more defined in Written Communication than Critical Thinking. The patterns generated from the distribution of ACT scores as compared to Written Communication or Critical thinking rubric scores were not as clear, but there was still a relationship there. Discussion ensued regarding the 0 rating. The 0 is allowed if an artifact does not meet the benchmark—a rater can then assign a 0 in that instance. Per J. Comer, only 3 artifacts scored a 0. Seniors generally scored 3's and 4's for both Written Communication and Critical Thinking; however, the majority of freshmen scored in these ranges as well. Given that one of the defining features of the VSA is the concept of "value added", this means that those freshmen who scored 3 during this assessment cycle must score a 4 next time in order to show that value added (assuming we can assess the same students in the next assessment cycle). L. Cota summarized the findings with slides, and concluded there is still room for improvement overall.
- 4. Assessment Updates:**

**Assessment Budget requests.** The budget requests will be done differently this year. We are looking at more of a grant model. The forms will go through the Associate Deans' offices. The form is new and fillable. It combines the basic template used in recent years with specific fields to be filled in order to streamline the

request. The forms will be on the UAT by next week. Budget requests are due June 5, 2015. UAT will be sending email reminders to assessment coordinators about the changes and to be on the lookout for the new form.

**Assessment Report Template.** The assessment report template also has changes. Instead of an essay format, it will be more a fillable form. The form will be presented at the next meeting. We hope it will get the departments talking about assessment.

5. **Assessment of Diversity.** The committee did not discuss this topic as they were wanting feedback from Steve Damron. The reporting has been tabled.
6. **The Assessment of General Education.** OSU is in the end stages of collecting artifacts. Artifacts were collected in the areas of Written Communication and Diversity this year. We will focus on Science Reasoning in the summer of 2015 and Diversity in the summer of 2016. Then it is back to the VSA with Critical Thinking and Written Communication. The main issue with Science Reasoning is that there is not much writing involved in most science courses, however we are looking for artifacts that meet that criteria. We will be using the same rubrics in all areas except for Critical Thinking and Written Communication, which were switched.

**Meeting adjourned 2:02 pm.**