



Committee for the Assessment of General Education

Thursday, November 14, 2013
1:30 PM, 140 Murray Hall

Minutes

1. Members Present: Melanie Bayles, Carol Beier, Jon Comer (Chair), John Gelder (Vice-Chair), Bridget Miller, Greg Wilber

UAT Personnel Present: Lisa Cota, Sarah Wilkey

2. Update on General Education Assessment 2012-13 report:

Cota gave a detailed presentation on the current findings using Observation Oriented Modeling (OOM) instead of linear regression analysis to evaluate the artifact scores for the Scientific Reasoning and Diversity portfolios from summer 2013. At present time, very few significant influences on score can be derived from the educational and biographical traits of students available from IRIM, though a gender difference was found in Diversity scores.

Discussion ranged across several topics that might not be measured by IRIM data but which could influence student performance, especially on the Diversity scores. Also, Diversity portfolio scores were generally higher for (S, I) courses than (H, D) courses, although this was determined to have occurred mainly because just two sections of a single course represented the (S, I) courses in the Diversity portfolio.

OOM analysis also indicated that, usually with 90% accuracy or higher, individual sub-scores +/- one point were very strong predictors of overall artifact scores, in some cases nearly 100% in the instance of rubric category D on the Scientific Reasoning portfolio. The committee felt that while sub-scores will continue to be of some interest, overall scores are a good proxy for the overall quality of the artifacts.

Further analysis is being developed, though unfortunately one hoped-for influence on scores, a positive correlation between class in school (freshman-senior) and higher scores indicating value-added, was not evident in the data. Cota and Wilkey indicated they were striving to complete a draft of the report before the Christmas break for the committee to review.

3. Development of VSA Portfolio for Summer 2014:

Wilkey reported that over 1,500 artifact from lower-division courses, mainly representing first-semester freshman (we hope), have already been collected with approximately 350 artifact still to come from ENGL 1113 courses. Accounting for filtering out non-freshmen from this pool, we are fairly confident in attaining the VSA-minimum 350 artifacts for the fall, freshman pool.

Wilkey mentioned that she can obtain CWIDs of graduating seniors in fall 2013 from the Registrar, which would allow her to pull senior artifacts out of these predominantly freshman-level courses. This would give us a head start on graduating senior artifacts that we originally intended to collect only in spring 2014. The committee was in favor, since the VSA requires only that we get 350 artifacts each from first semester freshmen and final semester seniors, and the semester the artifacts are collected (fall versus spring) is irrelevant.

The committee also discussed possible senior-heavy courses from the current semester and to be thinking about identifying similar courses in spring 2014 to facilitate the collection of at least 350 usable artifacts for graduating seniors.

4. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM

Respectfully submitted by Jon Comer