



Committee for the Assessment of General Education

Friday, September 26, 2014
11:00 AM, 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 Gordon

2. Update on Gen Ed 2013-14 rating process and scoring:

Cota gave a brief summary of the analyses of the VSA Writing and Critical Thinking scores from summer 2014. A notable difference of mean score between seniors and freshmen was observed for Writing, but while a statistically significant difference existed between seniors and freshmen for Critical Thinking, the actual difference was quite small and there were nearly as many "3" scores (out of 4) for freshmen as for seniors, as well as a high number of "1" scores for seniors. Various "standard" and alternative statistical models were applied to the data. The VSA report must be submitted by October 10, 2014 and the Regent's Assessment report is due November 10, 2014.

3. Discussion of results:

The committee thought there might be several factors involved in the smaller "gains" observed in Critical Thinking, from the quality of the assignment prompts, the difficulty of teaching or recognizing critical thinking, and various other factors, but the less clear-cut value added provides much to consider going forward. Analyses by gender and by college revealed no notable differences.

4. Development of General Education Assessment Science Portfolio for 2015

The committee agreed to pursue Science Reasoning artifacts during 2014-15 for assessment during summer 2015, and to consider using the VALUE rubric instead of our own to continue to align our methods with the VSA, even though this is not required. Diversity will likely be assessed again in summer 2016, with our next VSA-required reporting to take place in summer 2017.

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Some discussion ensued as to whether to obtain only freshmen and senior artifacts for Science Reasoning, to completely align with VSA methods, but given the past small portfolio sizes for this skill when assessing artifacts for all student classification levels, it was agreed to continue seeking papers from science courses from sophomores and juniors as well. Any and all science-type courses on campus, regardless of whether they carry general education (N) or (L) credit, will be sought.

5. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM

Respectfully submitted by Jon Comer