

AAG Meeting Minutes 11/30/22

Attendees: Sarah Mulhall Adelman, Luce Aubry, Karen Druffel, Mary Grasseti, Haewon Ju, Lori Lavigne, Lawrence McKenna, Mark Nicholas, Jena Shepard, and Julie Zoino-Jeannetti

Time: 1:30PM-2:20PM

Location: Zoom

Discussion: Annual Assessment Reports

- Julie Zoino-Jeannetti opened the meeting with a quick welcome and reminded attendees that the annual assessment reports are due tomorrow on December 1, 2022.
- Julie Zoino-Jeannetti asked the group to share how their assessment reports were coming along and if they had anything assessment related they were struggling with.
- Karen Druffel noted that Business has specialized accreditation so they do not submit reports.
- Lori Lavigne only submits for economics. They finished up their cycle last year, they spent time rewriting their PLOs and an external reviewer gave them some feedback on the verbiage which lead to updating some rubrics.
- Sarah Mulhall Adelman noted that History created a worksheet a couple of years ago to assess their core classes, they will be collecting this year and next and aggregating the data later, last year was spent thinking about how to refine the process rather than actual assessment.
- Luce Aubry noted that World Languages has no specialized accreditation yet, but they are struggling with developing a sense of the importance of assessment within the department. She also mentioned that Spanish does not have an assessment plan yet.
- Larry McKenna admitted his department will not make the deadline but they will be submitting by the end of the semester, because of the merger to create the new department they will have to submit brand new assessment plans and reports. Currently, George Bentley is in charge of all of their assessment. They will be cutting down the department wide PLOs and presenting their work at the December faculty meeting.
- Luce Aubry asked if the assessment plans are submitted at a different time than the reports?
 - Mark Nicholas answered: Assessment plans can be uploaded with the report in the electronic form, or email them to our office and we will upload them.
- Larry McKenna shared that his goal is to assess the new PLOs as early as next semester.
- Haewon Ju will not make the deadline for merchandising. They modified their PLOs so the next couple of years will be the assessment PLOs.
- Education will be submitting their first report for Child and Family Studies, with new PLOs.
- Mark Nicholas asked how we can support faculty and departments, and brought up the possibility of workshops? Which would provide participants with a stipend and a well thought out assessment plan by the end of the workshop.

Discussion: Summaries of Exit Surveys

- Julia Zoino-Jeannetti read through the summaries of three years of exit surveys.
- Larry McKenna noted that assessment results will be bleak and we need to start prepping how we are going to deal with this, we need to somehow ensure students that assessment is not a grade and develop strategies to reduce anxiety across the board.
- In reference to the negative scores connected to General Education scores, Mary Grasseti shared a specific example of a great student wanting to get their Gen Ed course out of the way, because they had nothing to do with their major, so it is definitely an issue at least by student perception.
- The group is hopeful that the campaign for someone dedicated to the Gen Ed program we will see bigger gains and perceptions change.
- Mark Nicholas shared that Career services has a new director, and it is priority of President Nancy Niemi since students seem to think career help in advising is lacking.
- Larry McKenna had to leave the meeting.
- Lori Lavigne noted that economics only has 20 majors and they struggle because they always have a horrible score for class availability, but cannot run the classes with such low enrollment.
- Mark Nicholas asked if there was something, we can do to advocate for course availability with lower enrollments?
 - Sarah Mulhall Adelman responded that department chairs are advocating, but without the data it is difficult. Acquiring the data on withdrawals based on class availability may help the cause.
- Mark Nicholas reminded the group to use the survey reports on our webpage to help with their own assessment.
- Sarah Mulhall Adelman noted that timing graduation is a particular problem with capstone classes. The university should not rely on faculty offering these as independent studies, since faculty cannot be required to teach independent studies, and so it falls disproportionately on a small number of faculty in many departments.
- Luce Aubry shared a student experience of withdrawing from courses and the registrar withdrawing them completely from the university. Even though, that student never received the withdrawal form.
- Mark Nicholas commented that the withdrawal data and how the form is distributed would be a good point to bring up at the chairs meeting.

NECHE Standard 8: Educational Effectiveness

- Mark Nicholas noted that we are currently writing our self-study, which focus on two indicators, student learning and student success. We will bring that narrative to the AAG members next semester and would love your feedback.

The meeting ended at 2:20 PM.

