

Assessment Advisory Group Meeting Minutes 12/16/2013

Attendees: Sarah Adelman, Sheree Arpin, Pam Sebor-Cable, Patricia Crouch, Audrey Kali, David Keil, Patricia Lynne, Mark Nicholas, Rebecca Shearman, and Charles Sachs

Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Dwight Hall Common Room

Introduction

The meeting started with brief introductions. Nicholas the new Director of Assessment outlined his philosophy of assessment and vision for assessment at FSU.

e-Portfolio evaluation by English Department

Crouch informed the AAG that the English department was piloting an e-Portfolio system. They were exploring using Digication and Chalk & Wire. Crouch invited members of the AAG to attend the product demos or to share their own experiences with e-portfolios with the English department.

Update on State-wide Assessment

Nicholas gave the AAG an update on the state-wide and multi-state assessment efforts relating to written communication (WC), critical thinking (CT) and quantitative reasoning (QR). The state is currently working on a non-standardized approach to achieve comparability at various levels.

- The data collection for the multi-state pilot will begin in Fall 2014 and FSU will need to decide whether to participate
- Participation would require that we collect appx. 75 artifacts per outcome assessed
- The state will soon release FAQs for the multistate pilot which will be shared with the AAG when available
- A potential problem for participation is that FSU, based on the current Gen Ed assessment plan, will be working on three different outcomes than the ones assessed in the multi-state pilot
- FSU will also need to respond on whether the State wide Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval process is sufficient for participation in the statewide assessment pilot or if FSU will also need to seek campus IRB approval
- The state plans to begin negotiation with Unions to include assessment in faculty contracts

Lynne told the AAG that she had information that Massachusetts may require the use of a uniform college placement test and that we needed to find out more information and analyze its impact for FSU.

AMCOA Update

Shearman updated the committee on the work of Advancing a Massachusetts Culture of Assessment (AMCOA). State universities and community colleges are talking to each other in order to help

develop and build a culture of assessment at respective universities. Shearman informed the committee that AMCOA intends to fund two faculty development workshops which will bring in outside expertise to each campus. One workshop would focus on a particular learning outcome chosen by faculty and the other on the use of assessment data.

The AAG agreed the months of January and May would be good times to conduct such workshops. FSU and Mass Bay would host one conference each and faculty from either campus can attend.

Analyzing results from general education program assessment (2012-13)

The AAG discussed the results from the assessment of General Education 2012-13. Nicholas presented results for the following objectives: written communication, critical thinking, and quantitative reasoning.

The AAG unanimously held that the results were not valid to speak to issues about the Gen Ed program itself. The group identified small sample sizes as the chief reason for lack of validity. The discussion of results focused on the assessment process itself and with aligning classroom approaches and curriculum with Gen Ed objectives. Members discussed issues relating to the data collection process, the rating process, nature of artifacts, rubrics and definition of Gen Ed Objectives.

Discussion and recommendations for general education curriculum and assessment

After detailed discussion, the AAG came up with the following recommendations:

- Need to select more artifacts for assessment from the pool of artifacts submitted by faculty
- Need for clearer guidelines to instructors contributing artifacts for Gen Ed
- Need to collect assignment prompts for all artifacts and answer keys for quantitative assignments
- Need for clearer guidelines to raters evaluating Gen Ed artifacts
- Need for faculty development relating to Gen Ed outcomes
- Need to examine FSU CT and WC and QT rubrics concerning how closely they align with the VALUE Rubrics from the AAC&U
- Need to re-examine FSU rubric for written communication so that it can include multiple genres of writing
- Need to re-examine the quantitative reasoning rubric to establish nuances in some components of the rubric
- Need to develop broad institutional definitions for the Gen Ed outcome - CT
- Need to use common language in Gen Ed rubrics and definitions of outcomes in Gen Ed curriculum objectives
- Find ways to engage campus community with the results of Gen Ed assessment

Nicholas recommended that the group meet again in early Spring to discuss specific recommendations that can be implemented in the following year. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.