

Assessment & Testing Committee Meeting
Minutes – 12/09/04

Members Present:

- Vicki Atkinson, STU DEV Faculty Orientation Coordinator
- Lin Cui, ESL Program Faculty
- Eric Rosenthal , STU DEV Administrator
- Michele Robinson, Faculty-at-Large
- Karen Froelich, Transfer Program Faculty
- Nancy Rice, Co-Chair, Math Faculty
- Tanya Bergman, Assessment/Testing Coordinator
- Hazel Rilki, IT Administrator
- Matt McLaughlin, Admissions Administrator
- Maria Moten, Co-Chair, Registrar's Office
- Dawn McKinley, Career Program Faculty
- Kurt Neumann, English Faculty
- Julie Henning, AVPAA

Member Absent:

- Kate Gianaris, Reading Faculty

Guest

- Lynn Altfeld, ESL

Meeting was called to order at 3:40pm.

Minutes from 10/28/04 were approved with several changes recorded by Tanya.

Agenda:

I. Laura Crane presented Fall 2003 Course Placement Summary. The policy has been that students place by current guidelines. If the guidelines change between testing and registration, then students place by the *current* guidelines. Cut scores are selected to maximize correct placement. No test score is 100% reliable. Laura mentioned the issue of what would the impact be on students if a cut score were raised by 1 point, 2 points, etc. We will need to look at cut score changes for Fall 2005.

Laura will look at MTH 060/080 spring results (for the Math Department) and whether there is a correlation between reading/writing and success in other areas. Laura will be reporting to us in February.

II. ESL Changes: Lynn Altfeld met with this committee to give us a “referral” update. The ESL department is back to “screening” students on day one of a student’s appointment. This screening is split between the ESL and LAP faculty. Part time students are asked to return on screening days if deemed ESL or are asked to see an advisor.

A waiver form has been created that a student may sign to opt out of ESL. It consists of two parts: 1) Screener believes student belongs in ESL and student chooses otherwise. 2) Student understands that he/she will not receive a refund should he/she later decide he/she was misplaced. The question arose on whether a student could then transfer back to ESL with no additional cost.

Students will not be automatically told about the waiver form, but many feel word will spread. Lynn feels it is best for students to be screened but perhaps not allowed to “waive” out of ESL.

A rather lengthy review of last meeting’s discussion followed. To avoid any possible discrimination, the question regarding English as a first language was removed from the Harper application form. Maria and Nancy met with Daniel Corr, Terry Lindsay and others, and Daniel and Terry will be invited to a meeting of Assessment and Testing to resolve issues on whether what occurred was a policy change or just a change in the referral process. The reality is that there are registration issues, enrollment issues, advising issues, documentation issues, etc. because of the change in ESL “screening”. These issues need to be explored. We need to decide whether to change the wording on our policy fact sheet.

John Shola and Sally Griffith will be invited to a future meeting to update this committee on the RAC pilot program.

Meeting was adjourned at: 5pm.

Spring 2005 Meeting Dates:

- January 27
- February 10
- February 24
- March 10
- March 24
- April 14
- April 28