

ASSESSMENT AND TESTING COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, October 11, 2007

3:00PM

F253

Members in Attendance:

Joshua Sunderbruch, Karen Froelich, Lynn Altfeld, Sheryl Otto, Matt McLaughlin; Jean-Louise Gustafson, John Smith; Tasnim Kazi, Vicki Atkinson, Michele' Robinson; Maria Moten; Sue Bajt; Pat Widder; Dave McShane;

Members Absent: Tanya Bergman, Sally Griffith

Chairperson: Joshua Sunderbruch

I. Meeting began at 3:08 pm

II. Review of the Minutes

Minutes from the meeting on September 27, 2007 were reviewed and accepted as read with minor grammatical errors.

Introductions were made. New members were present: *Pat Widder* was appointed as Math faculty. *Dave McShane* will represent the IT administrator. *Sue Bajt* will represent the career program faculty.

III. Old Business

- A. **Developing a tool for surveying institutional climate:** Josh presented the committee with research on Assessment & Testing placement procedures amongst 5 other colleges. Findings indicated that in locations where mandatory placement is utilized, students showed a higher rate of success. Success levels were not so great where students were allowed to self-place. Actually results in one report indicated that only 33% of student who self place are successful.

Discussion took place as to how do we submit a survey to the entire faculty at Harper, in an effort to find out if the faculty wants to continue to have mandatory placement, without people thinking this is only for English, Math, and Reading. Discussion resulted in the committee deciding that we have one of three options.

- 1). Send the A&T subcommittee proposal forward to see what the response is.
- 2). Send the A&T subcommittee proposal forward with the research and data Josh has collected.
- 3). Send the A&T subcommittee proposal forward with the results of a faculty survey on the topic of mandatory placement.

Committee came to consensus that for now, we would not send out a faculty survey. We would ask Josh to continue to gather more research and data on this issue. We would ask John Smith (co chair of the developmental education task force) to give a report to this committee on the task force's work on matters of assessment and placement and see if there is a place we can 'come together' with that group on this issue.

IV. New Business

A. Discussion of exceptions (from testing) for specific certificate programs:

Matt McLaughlin led this discussion:

1. We are giving exceptions on testing to students completing the RAC (Refrigeration & Air Conditioning), DMS (Diagnostic Medical Synography), or CT (Cardiac Technology) certificates and this is not in the current A&T policy.
2. This committee agreed (back in February 2004) that we would not have testing done for people in these certificate programs.
3. The waivers were granted as it was believed that by virtue of being accepted to these specific certificate programs they would have in essence met the requirements and therefore testing not needed.
4. The argument stands that even if students in these programs tested into remedial math, for example, this skill would not necessarily be needed for this job and therefore these students should be exempt from mandatory testing.
5. We need to insert these exceptions into the new A&T policy and keep in mind how this will be 'systematically' implemented.
6. Comment from Dave McShane: We must have written policy to work with the system. With Regent, we had ownership and could make the changes. With Banner this is not so much the case. So we need to be able to streamline where possible. Also, we may have to simply 'live' with the system for one year to see how adaptable the policy is.

B. Suggestions for moving forward

The following suggestions were presented by committee members:

1. Josh could continue to do research on the need for placement testing and provide us with more data at the next meeting.
2. John Smith could prepare a report for us on the Developmental Education task force and their work.
3. Dave McShane could prepare a report on Banner for this committee.

It was decided that the committee could definitely benefit from a presentation on Banner. It was also decided that the committee should submit the A&T subcommittee proposal and include information from the research done by Josh regarding placement at other school.

We agreed that at the meeting on October 25, 2007 we would hear a report from John Smith regarding the Developmental education task force. We would hear a report from Josh regarding additional research on testing. We will hear a report from Dave McShane on Banner. It was suggested that each speaker be given 10 minutes to present their items then we leave the remaining 30 minutes of the meeting open for Q&A

The committee also agreed that during the November 8th meeting we would draft our proposal to be sent forward through the process for review.

Meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm

Draft

Future Meeting Dates: Oct. 25, 2007

Nov. 8, 2007

Dec. 13, 2007

Feb. 14, 2008

Feb., 28, 2008

March 13, 2008

April 10, 2008

April 24, 2008

May 8, 2008

All meetings to be held on F253 (William Rainey Harper Room)

Respectfully submitted: Michele' Robinson, Secretary