

ASSESSMENT AND TESTING COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, March 13, 2008

3:00PM (Room F-253)

Members in Attendance:

Joshua Sunderbruch, Karen Froelich, Lynn Altfeld, Sheryl Otto, Jean-Louise Gustafson, Michele` Robinson, Maria Moten, Sue Bajt, Dave McShane, Tanya Bergman, Sally Griffith, Vicki Atkinson, Matt McLaughlin

Members Absent: John Smith, Pat Widder

Chairperson: Joshua Sunderbruch

Visitor: Marge Skold (V.P. Academic Affairs)

I. Meeting began at 3:10 pm

II. Old Business

- A. A proposal was made recommending the A& T committee change cut score review process from every year to some other sequence for ease of review. Discussion took place:
 - 1. Perhaps ENG one year then MATH the next.
 - 2. Concerns – What about the use of year-old data?
 - 3. It was suggested that we look at scores in say Fall '08 for say Fall '09.
 - 4. We are looking at a 2-year cycle and we would gather data for the entire 2 year cycle.
 - 5. So we would see Laura Crane in the fall of each year with 2 years of data vs. seeing her in the Spring of each year with 1 year of data.
 - 6. Josh will do a CAR for this and send it out electronically for review before forwarding it on.
- B. Name Change of A&T Committee
 - 1. We are proposing name of this committee be changed from A&T committee to Testing and Placement Committee to avoid confusion with the newly formed Assessment Center position/area.
 - 2. This name change would not result in a change in our mission.
 - 3. Group felt that we should clarify that this change was motivated by HLC initiative to add in the Assessment Outcomes area/group on campus.
 - 4. Comments were shared by Dr. Skold
 - a. This is an academic committee so it may not be wise to “reduce” the scope of our mission. We may actually need to take on more (i.e. via formation of subcommittees –much like what Teaching and Learning does – in order to do the assessment work.)
 - b. Suggestion we hold off on name change until we know final format for this proposed Outcomes area/group.
 - c. We need to remember that we need institutional assessment but we also need academic programs to establish outcomes and have those evaluated. Until this person is hired and the details are “ironed out”, then this discussion may be premature.

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5. Discussion took place with regard to what the A& T committee does and Marge suggested A&T committee consider taking a leadership role on assessment as an academic committee.
6. The committee agreed to take the name change proposal off the table for now. We can re-visit this issue later.

III. New Business

- A. **ERP:** This topic will continue to be on the agenda on an ongoing basis. Today there are no updates.

IV. New Business (open to the committee)

A. Vicki Atkinson

1. Her office has decided to ask some additional questions when screening students for testing. Such as what number of hours do you plan to work, etc. This would give us a way to quantify this data that we gather through Laura Crane's office.
2. It was suggested that perhaps A&T have a break out session at orientation to inform all faculty of these changes to the screening tool.
3. Dr. Skold commented that self reporting data is highly reliable and this is probably a wise choice.
4. The point was clarified that changes of the questions to COMPASS impacts any student being tested not just part – timers.

B. How have you included Strengths in the work that you do?

1. Vicki showed the group a "rough draft" of the Ed Planning Record that full time students would get that allows them an opportunity to address/identify their strengths.
2. Dave asked that he and Vicki meet to discuss ways of how to get this Ed Planning Record electronically.

C. Can COMPASS eventually be on a secure site to be taken home?

1. For now no ideas to go in this direction as the test is to be taken on campus so the computer is registered in ACT and it takes care of security issues to ensure a student really is who he/she says they are.
2. Comment: A&T committee should be sure to stay current with technologies and efforts out there for web based testing, assessment, etc.

D. Any ideas on the future of mandatory placement efforts at this institution?

1. Response from Dr. Skold: I believe in – "highly recommend" and not "mandate." "Remember you cannot use a peanut butter spreader to cover every student instance at a 2 year school."
2. Ideally every student should be able to assess reading, writing, math before entering a program and it should be specific to the program. (for example in Nursing it would be different needs than HVAC, etc.).
3. We should be more concerned about what people will be doing in the real world vs. being assessed just to be assessed.
4. I prefer they have the option to ignore our recommendation but not be forced to do anything.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm

Future Meeting Dates:
April 10th April 24th May 8th (2008)

Respectfully submitted: Michele' Robinson, Secretary