

Learning Assessment Committee – Minutes February 17, 2015

1. The meeting started at 3:55.
2. Middle States Update:
 - a. Working Groups:
 - The eight working groups submitted their interim reports in December. The working groups had done a lot of reading and gathering of evidence.
 - Sony & Yun met with all the working group chairs individually to offer some suggestions.
 - The working groups are now going into the research and analysis phase. They will submit their final reports to the steering committee by May 14th. Some groups asked if they could give drafts in advance for comment. That is fine.
 - b. Feb. 26th: The student working group will present their findings to the college community. This group will share the student perspective. Please try to attend and support our students.
 - c. April 7th: Day of Development – working groups will have one hour to share their findings and progress.
 - d. Francis Schmidt: mentioned his lawsuit against the college and asked if it would be included in the Middle States report. Dr. Kim told him to send his information to her and she would forward it to the appropriate working group. She also said that the report has a 100 page limit and not all information can be included.
3. LAC Role in Assessment:
 - a. Support Faculty:
 - b. The chair asked the committee for input on how the committee can support assessment. The following are highlights of the discussion:
 - Create a marketing/ PR piece for faculty
 - ❖ Newsletter/talking points
 - ❖ Everyone's responsible
 - ❖ Timeline
 - ❖ Phrase it in practical techniques.
 - ❖ What are other departments doing → maybe some collaboration
 - Communicate with faculty at department meetings.
 - Can't be onerous → needs to be voluntary, confidential, easy so that faculty are willing to participate.
 - Assessment fellows can go to department meetings.
 - One-on-one approach to get people to participate.
 - Share completed assessment projects – maybe one paragraph. Allows everyone to see what other departments are doing.

- The same people often do assessment → need to get more people involved.
- Offer release time for those doing assessment. It is not the same assessment we do in class.
 - ❖ Acknowledge the work of faculty → maybe a stipend
 - ❖ Use the adjunct observer model to pay those involved
 - ❖ The assessment liaison should be paid more than the other faculty for assessment.
 - ❖ Faculty do not receive compensation for program review and that is also a lot of work.
- c. Support the Dean:
 - Identify strategies that get faculty involved and present them to the dean.
 - Ask dean to send letter inviting participation → this can have a negative effective – sounds threatening. It sometimes does work, though.
- d. The acting LAC chair will prepare a draft of suggestions to share at the March meeting. At the end of the semester, the LAC can share its recommendations with the Senate.

4. White House Scorecard (Dr. Kim)

- a. A discussion between Peter Dlugos, Gail Fernandez, Ilene Kleinman and Yun Kim led to the idea of brown bag lunches to discuss national issues that will impact BCC.
- b. Why is assessment important?



Is public money being used appropriately? Regional accreditation such as Middle States came up with outcomes assessment to demonstrate what we are doing. Right now it is voluntary.

- c. New conversation: Competency Based Programs (direct assessment) Students don't have to sit in the classroom to get a degree.
- d. The White House is getting close to completing the College Rating Scorecard:
 - Costs: BCC tuition is highest among NJCC
 - Graduation Rates
 - Loan Default Rate
 - Median Amount Borrowed: we advise students to borrow and don't encourage them to look for other sources of money (grants).
 - Employment: community college can show that students transfer or go to work.

Students want degrees to change their lives. Colleges will be held responsible.

5. Brown Bag Lunch Series: Periodic lunches where we discuss larger issues of interest to the college community.
 - a. March 11th, Room C-309, 12:30 – 1:30: White House Score Card
6. Meeting adjourned at 4:50.

Submitted by Gail Fernandez