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Assessment of Student Learning Minutes
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DATE: Wednesday, September 13, 2000

4:00 PM in the Prairie Lounge

SUBJECT: Assessment of Student Learning Committee Minutes

PRESENT: Dian Lopez (Chair), Edith Borchardt, Stephen Burks, Eric Klinger, Tim O'Keefe, and
Engin Sungur

Guests: Chancellor Sam Schuman, Nancy Carpenter, Assistant Academic Dean for Faculty Affairs

ABSENT: Lisa Perkins, Andy Uttke

The meeting began with the discussion of the NCA report as it pertained to Assessment.

Chancellor Schuman stated that he believes we did what the NCA required us to do, but it was a difference of opinion between the visiting team and the NCA. Schuman also stated the visiting team's complaints:

1. Our process is too complex.
2. Data was available, we should use it.
3. Stop planning for Assessment, start taking action.

Chancellor Schuman suggested naming a Director of Assessment. Schuman proposed naming Nancy Mooney as Director of Assessment. Schuman stated that Mooney now collects information such as student satisfaction, institutional research, and other data which may be suggested. Schuman stated that if Nancy were appointed director, he would send her to Truman State to see their model process for assessment. The Assessment Committee would be the policy maker. Lopez responded with questions regarding the appointment of Mooney.

1. Would Mooney be asking for numbers under the Assessment Committee's direction?
2. Would Mooney get a break in her other duties to do this position well?

Sungur stated that there is a danger in collecting data that is not reliable, that is why we went through so much effort to do the planning. Sungur cited an example in which numbers could be interpreted differently. Sungur stated should implement the process already in place to produce numbers and use it. Senior Seminar and Electronic Portfolio should be assessed. Schuman urged us to put in place a simple numerical mechanism that will generate data that will satisfy NCA. Schuman suggested moving from faculty director to managerial director and that this should be in effect relatively soon. O'Keefe said we should implement the assessment plans for the disciplines and general education that are already in place.

Lopez stated that the NCA also complained that our assessment numbers are not compared to other institutions. Klinger stated that data such as students abroad, students working with people with disabilities, and other administrative data could be used.

Sungur was thanked for his hard work with Assessment. Chancellor Schuman and Assistant Academic Dean Carpenter left the meeting.

The discussion continued about the appointment of Mooney to Director of Assessment. Klinger stated that the title should be different, Director is too authoritative and given too much power. Borchardt suggested Assessment Analyst for a title. It was stated that faculty must be involved in actual assessment, Mooney is more qualified for institutional

assessment.

Privacy of data was discussed and the difference of assessment coming from grass roots and/or brought down from administration. Burks and O'Keefe stated that much of the data collected is public information anyway so that is not as much of a concern. The committee will meet again to work out details of an assessment structure that will satisfy the disciplines, the administration, and the NCA.

Meeting times were discussed. It was decided that the September 27th meeting would begin at 4:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 27 at 4:30 PM in the Prairie Lounge.