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Assessment of Student Learning Minutes
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DATE: November 4, 2005

SUBJECT: Assessment of Student Learning Committee Minutes

PRESENT: Katherine Benson (Chair), Donna Chollett, Mark Fohl, James Togeas, Nathan Swanson and Cassie McMahon

ABSENT: Nancy Helsper, Paul Myers and Matt Senior

Benson called the ASL meeting to order at 4:00 PM in the Prairie Lounge.

Benson asked for corrections or additions to the ASL Minutes dated October 28, 2005. Benson noted a revision to the minutes. Motion: (Swanson/Togeas) to approve the minutes as amended; unanimously carried.

Mark Fohl will serve on the GenEd/Importance of Liberal Arts Sub-Committee.

Benson requested members to submit their spring 2006 semester schedules to Pederson; meeting time/dates determined at the next meeting.

The committee discussed the remaining agenda items from the October 28 meeting.

NCA Report

The NCA report was discussed and approved at the October 28 meeting with revisions. Benson discussed the letter with the committee. A progress report is due to NCA November 1, 2007. The assigned task for the Discipline Assessment subcommittee is to find out which disciplines have exact data, and to prompt other disciplines for exact data and submit it to the ASL. Benson believes the NCA wants data from all disciplines. Members discussed if accessing examples is available from other schools; Benson noted she has a link, Middle States Commission on Higher Education: Best Practice on Outcomes Assessment on her website; the URL is [http://www.msache.org/msache/content/pdf_files/best-
oa.pdf](http://www.msache.org/msache/content/pdf_files/best-oa.pdf) Benson noted the Higher Learning Commission assesses UMM. Chollett will contact NCA (Barbara Pollard Taylor) and ask if examples are available on their site. It is a consensus to amend the NCA report, but not to submit it to NCA ourselves.

NSSE Report

Benson discussed the results of the NSSE report with the committee. Some areas of concern included how much time students spend on homework and written papers. Benson said the Heifetz approach could be used to determine whether it is a technical or adaptive problem. Benson noted that 40% of seniors and freshman completed the survey; some results have fallen compared to the 2002 NSSE results, although in some areas we excel. Students will take the survey in April, 2006.

Benson distributed copies of the Institutional Benchmark Report, November 2004, to members for review and discussion, highlighting issues and concerns of the report.

“Liberal-Arts Importance” Issue and General Education

- Benson said UMM has developed our own survey; the GenEd criteria are identified using the goals in the Bulletin. Students are asked if they have achieved the goals and are asked to evaluate their importance.
- The ASL approved the Pre-test last year, but it now must go to Assembly for approval.
- Pre-test survey will be on the December agenda

Discipline Assessment

All disciplines have reports filed; the data vary. The task for the Discipline Assessment committee is to find examples in Science and Arts.

Other

- Members should review the ASL template website; send comments or suggestions to Helsper.
- Benson asked members to think about other issues the ASL should be addressing this year. Bring suggestions to the December meeting.
- Benson suggested a set of principles be adopted for assessment, e.g., protecting confidentiality of both faculty and students. Members agreed assessment data should not be used for faculty review; a suggestion was to summarize data by Disciplines.
- Benson will send an assessment model to members for review, please submit changes and/or additions.
- Faculty should have ownership of the assessment they are doing in their Discipline.

The ASL Committee will meet Friday, December 2, 2005 in the Prairie Lounge, 4:00-5:00 PM.

Motion (Swanson) to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 PM.

Submitted by:
Linda Pederson