University-Wide Assessment Committee
Student Development
August 25, 2011
3:00 p.m., Dawsey Conference Room

Members present: Jean Ann Brakefield, John Beard, Jennie Cassidy, Bruce Gregory, Steve Harrison, Chris Mee, Travis Overton, Caesar Ross, Pat Singleton-Young, Frankie Weeks,

Members absent: Whitney Comer, Allison Faix, Geoff Parsons, Tara Saville, Tom Woodle

Opening Remarks

Jennie Cassidy, Chair, convened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. in the Dawsey Conference Room and welcomed all present.

UWAC Committee Representative

Jennie Cassidy asked for a volunteer to fill in at UWAC meetings when she is not available as Bruce Gregory has a scheduling conflict. Steve Harrison will attend the monthly UWAC meeting when Cassidy is unable to do so.

Return to the 3 Research Questions

Jean Ann Brakefield reported that the new questions recommended by the committee were added to the alumni survey and the survey was pushed over the summer with an incentive. 981 responses were received. Discussion regarding the three questions ensued. While “productive, responsible, healthy” has not been formally defined, the results from this survey along with data from past surveys will be useful in addressing the questions. Further information and cross-tabs of the data will be needed.

Update on Leadership Assessment

Jennie Cassidy reported that the tokens have been ordered for the Leadership Assessment. Staff training has begun and sessions will be scheduled for all staff who will be administering the test. The pre-test will need to be administered to identified students as early in the fall semester as possible. An e-mail from Whitney Comer will provide additional information.

Distribution of NSSE Recommendations

The list of recommendations compiled by the committee during the last academic year was shared with the provost. Jennie Cassidy suggested that it would be beneficial to determine who else may be interested in the recommendations. Discussion ensued regarding the areas that would need to be contacted. It was determined that recommendations 1 and 2 are included in the Dean of Students Assessment Plan and therefore will be addressed.
Recommendation 3 suggests that the administration should charge all service units with providing cutting edge on-line resources and services for their areas. Student focus groups were suggested in order to ascertain what services students would like to have electronically. A suggestion to reach out to the Deans, Vice-Presidents, and other administrators was made in order to begin research as to what is lacking on their individual webpages. A combination approach was decided on, utilizing both of these suggestions. Steve Harrison recommended contacting ITS to determine what resources are available to the individual areas.

Recommendation 4 identifies a need for a Smart Choice Committee and requirement, as well as an Extra-Curricular Graduation Requirement (ECGR). John Beard reported that the UWAC -Student Learning also has a shared interest in a participation requirement for graduation and that the business department has started a similar program for their majors. Chris Mee suggested that it would be helpful to get more information on the model being used in the College of Business. John Beard recommended utilizing the resources already available and trying to avoid the addition of a required class. He proposed that a graduation requirement would be at no cost and would address the recommendation. He will contact Michael Latta and follow-up with the committee.

The conversation regarding the recommendations will continue at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the University-Wide Assessment Committee – Student Development will be on September 22, 2011. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.