University-Wide Assessment Committee
Student Development
April 29, 2014
9:30 a.m., KRNS 205

Members present: Jennie Cassidy, John Beard, Whitney Comer, Allison Faix, Vivian Ford, Stephen Harrison, Michael Jacobs, Tara Josey, Aggie O'Brien-Gayes, Travis Overton, Geoff Parsons, Caesar Ross, Michael Ruse, Pat Singleton-Young, Charles Whiffen

Members absent: Jean Ann Brakefield, Chris Mee, Tom Woodle

Welcome

Jennie Cassidy, Chair, convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in KRNS 205 and welcomed all present. Committee members introduced themselves.

Progress on Previously Made Recommendations

Nothing to report

Review of 2012-2013 Reports

Included with the meeting materials was the 2012-2013 Student Development Assessment Rubric Ratings sheet. The report scored the highest by each group was highlighted in yellow with the second highest highlighted in gray. All reports were also put in rank order based on the total rubric score received. Also distributed were the summary rubric sheets for each area. It was decided that all committee members would read and review the top five scored reports and submit the results to Jennie on or before May 15th. She will consolidate results then meet with Chris Mee and John Beard to determine the top reports.

The committee discussed several ideas for recognizing the top reports. Last year a recognition luncheon was held in conjunction with the UWAC-Administrative committee. UWAC-Student Learning recognitions took place at the spring semester General Faculty Meeting. Departments having the top academic reports were given a small cash award. One recommendation was made that the winners of the Student Development and Administrative Unit committees be mentioned at the fall semester General Faculty Meeting. Vivian Ford will coordinate the luncheon and provide details when available.

Discussion Items

Exploring/identifying opportunities for partnering in assessment both inside and outside of UWAC-SD – John Beard shared that many faculty don't realize that some Student Development areas have student learning outcomes. This might be a starting point for discussions and sharing information. Steve Harrison indicated that it was helpful to work in small groups with people from different areas when rating the assessment reports. He also shared that he has been sending out data to a wider group of partners in University Housing and it has been helpful receiving feedback as a result. Steve expressed concern,
however, at the lack of faculty involvement in the Student Affairs units. Models from other universities suggest that faculty involvement can be important in terms of collaboration. Jennie shared an example of a missed opportunity to partner and share between a faculty member in the College of Education and Multicultural Student Services. This missed opportunity points to a lack of communication between areas and an indication that we don't know what other areas are doing.

Several methods of information sharing were discussed:

- Email communication
- Gathering information on what is being done across campus in terms of assessment. As more people are working on assessment across campus gathering this information would be doable. The challenge would then be the sharing of this information and aiding in partnerships.
- Newsletters – e.g. Facilities Management as an example
- Listservs the interested individuals can subscribe to

Addressing Issue of Disregarding Data – Issues discussed included:

- Disregarding data and using another assessment tool when results are not favorable
- Decisions being made (usually from the top down) that do not appear to have been made based on any data
- Data and results being distributed and no acknowledgement that the information has been received and/or considered. Changes in administration may be attributed to data and reports not being addressed.

Exploring how to move results to action outside of your own area – It was discussed that narrowing down the list of action items might improve the chances of success. Also, internal successes with making changes may be shared externally in order to encourage change in other areas. Making small changes and building on the success of these changes may be the best way to proceed. Implementing change in areas outside of our own area is challenging.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. with the agreement that meetings would continue throughout the summer. It was agreed that Wednesday would be a suitable day for most in attendance. Committee members were asked to let Vivian know their fall schedule as soon as possible in order to schedule meetings that the majority of the committee can attend.