University-Wide Assessment Committee  
Student Development  
June 25, 2014  
2:00 p.m., Dawsey Conference Room

Members present: John Beard, Jean Ann Brakefield, Jennie Cassidy, Whitney Comer, Allison Faix, Vivian Ford, Stephen Harrison, Michael Jacobs, Tara Josey, Chris Mee, Aggie O'Brien-Gayes, Travis Overton, Michael Ruse, Pat Singleton-Young, Charles Whiffen

Members absent: Geoff Parsons, Caesar Ross, Tom Woodle

Welcome

Jennie Cassidy, Chair, convened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the Dawsey Conference Room and welcomed all present. No agenda was distributed as only one topic was to be discussed. Committee members were previously sent a copy of the EBI leadership assessment questions prior to the meeting.

Progress on Previously Made Recommendations

Nothing to report.

Discussion Items

Leadership Assessment – Following the receipt of an assessment grant, a leadership assessment was conducted several years ago. After the assessment was complete and results discussed, it was decided that it made sense to form our own model of leadership assessment. Since that time the University purchased the EBI Student Affairs Assessment Suite which contains, among other things, a student leadership assessment component. Most areas in the different student affairs units have student leaders, and a consistent method to assess whether students are learning from their leadership experiences is a priority.

Topics discussed included:

Who to include in this assessment: The leadership questions pertain mostly to students who are leading student organizations. Based on how the items are worded, student workers may also be assessed using this tool. In addition, orientation leaders, CINO Quest leaders, and others, may be included even though they don't technically lead a student organization. Prior to administering the survey, it is important to clearly define who is being considered a student leader. Demographic information is collected to assist in differentiating between students participating.

Who performs the assessment: The suite contains self-assessment tools, so students will be completing the questionnaires themselves. The advantage of the prior assessment tool used was the inclusion of assessment questions to be completed by the student, student's supervisor, and those being led by the student. Although the inability to have others assess the student may be a disadvantage, one advantage of using a tool such as EBI is the ability to compare results to other institutions.
What is being assessed: The goal of the assessment is to determine if students are learning as a result of the leadership experience as opposed to whether they have leadership skills.

When the assessment will be performed: Assessment will begin in Fall 2014 as a pilot study.

What is the purpose of using this assessment tool: One advantage of this tool is the ability to assess students consistently across different areas. The results of the assessment will hopefully provide information on what types of training to provide future student leaders.

Will the EBI assessment tool replace other existing assessment tools: The EBI tool will be used in addition to other specific tools currently being used. It will not serve as the sole replacement for other assessment instruments.

Which assessment tools of the suite will be initially administered: Discussions are still underway regarding which pieces of the suite will be distributed. Over-surveying students remains a concern.

Can additional, custom items be added to the surveys: Yes, this option exists and everyone who wishes to use this tool with their student leaders is encouraged to submit questions to be added to Whitney Comer.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.