University-Wide Assessment Committee
Student Learning
April 19, 2013
2:00 p.m., Kearns 205

Members Present: John Beard (Chair), Ellen Arnold, Kristal Curry, Margaret Fain, Amy Fyn, Dodi Hodges, Tom Hoffman, Michael Latta, Jim Luken, Vivian McCain, Scott Pleasant, John Steen, Dennis Wiseman

Members Absent: Chris Mee, Carol Osborne, Nelljean Rice, Barbara Ritter

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

John Beard, Chair, convened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. in Kearns 205 and welcomed all present.

The minutes from the meeting on March 22, 2013 were included as part of the packet distributed to all attendees. The Chair asked if any modifications to the minutes were recommended. A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was offered by Dennis Wiseman, seconded by Tom Hoffman, and approved by the committee.

II. Finalize Assessment Rubric for Fall 2013

A. Review Changes Submitted to This Point – Chairman Beard consolidated suggestions provided by committee members into the existing rubric, with the anticipation that the rubric could be finalized at this meeting.

B. What (if any) Additional Revisions Are Needed? – In order to improve rubric consistency it was suggested that the term "others from other disciplines" be changed to "outside readers". The Chair entertained a motion to approve the rubric as is. A motion to approve was offered by Mike Latta, seconded by Margaret Fain, and approved by the committee.

C. Send New Rubric to All TEAL Online Editors – The goal is to send the finalized rubric to the TEAL Online editors prior to the end of the current semester.

III. Review Suggestions From College Teams

Each college shared recommendations specific to their college that might be included as part of the committees overall recommendations for directions to take in student learning in 2013-2014.

A. College of Science – Tom Hoffman stated that his college plans to continue with assessment plan and report reviews. As a result of this process, departments are making changes to existing SLOs and assessment plans. In addition, the college as a whole is discussing procedures relative to prerequisites and thinking of ways they can be incorporated into assessment.
B. College of Business – Make Latta shared that the college is undergoing a series of changes which include changing overall objectives and programs, adding courses, and modifying student learning outcomes and assessments. Many changes are being driven by feedback received from employers. Coastal students are not always up to speed with the hard and soft skills required by employers.

C. College of Humanities and Fine Arts – Ellen Arnold reported that several departments within COHFA were focusing on measuring certain SLOs in several classes and at several different points in time. In addition, discussions took place where several student learning issues, e.g. writing and higher order critical thinking skills, were discussed between departments. As several COHFA departments are performance based, e.g. Music and Theatre, consideration is being given as to how the demonstration of skills can be assessed in a more consistent manner. Mike Latta questioned whether in performance assessments any consideration had been giving to assessing the audience. In his experience he has found that students often don't know how to demonstrate appropriate skills when they participate as members of an audience. Ellen was unaware of this being done in any COHFA department. Lastly, COHFA faculty teaching the same class have collaborated to share ideas, and in some cases syllabi and textbooks.

D. College of Education – Kristal Curry began by sharing that the COE has many mechanisms of assessment in place and now the focus is moving more towards examining assessment results. The COE assessment committee is having more discussions about specific assessments as opposed to just discussing procedures. Future plans include revisiting all processes and assessments associated with the internships.

E. University College – Scott Pleasant reported that work needs to be done to develop more meaningful assessment for the Interdisciplinary Studies major. In addition, the Centers need to revisit the type of assessments they do and move away from simply reporting the data (e.g. 10 workshops were held) and toward evaluating the quality of the programs and services provided.

IV. Recommendations for Next Year: 2013-2014

Included with the meeting materials was the "UWAC – Student Learning Recommendations 2012-2013" sheet. Several of the recommendations which were compiled in Spring 2012 based on the committee's work during the 2011-12 academic year, were implemented. It was noted, however, that some of these activities may not be as a direct result of this committee's recommendation. Discussion shifted to discuss items that may be included in the 2012-13 recommendations report.

A. A method for recognizing and rewarding exemplary assessment reports* has been established. Consideration must be given to how poor assessment reports should be addressed. Dealing with sub-standard reports would not be approached in a punitive way, but instead from the standpoint of how best to assist those struggling with assessment reporting.

B. Improve upon the current method of assessing reports entered into TEAL Online. Several departments (e.g. the Academic Centers, Core Curriculum) received input on their reports for the
first time during this academic year. To insure that all reports get assessed and feedback distributed, a schedule should be compiled to denote responsibility for assessing reports.

C. Dodi Hodges shared plans for creating and offering a week-long Assessment Institute through CeTEAL. Topics would include how to perform and interpret assessment, assessment measurements, and different modes of assessment. Recommendations on topics to include are welcome. The institute is tentatively scheduled for some time this summer, however, future institutes could be offered throughout the next academic year.

D. – Much time of this committee was spent evaluating the TEAL Online reports during the past academic year. A recommendation was made to shift the focus of the committee back to student learning and not only the mechanics of assessing reports.

*For the academic year 2011-12, first, second, third and fourth place awards were selected.

First Place: Department of History  
Second Place: Department of Management and Decision Sciences  
Third Place: Department of Visual Arts  
Fourth Place: Department of Marketing

Honorable mentions were also given to the following programs:

Exercise & Sport Science  
Elementary Education  
Resort Tourism Management

**V. Adjourn – Fall Meetings: Friday @ 2:00 p.m.?**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.