

Meeting Minutes: Assessment Council

February 28, 2014 – 1:00 p.m. – Myers Technology Building 101E

Attendees:

Name	Representing
Allen, Troy	College of Graduate and Professional Studies
Arvin, Shelley	Library
Cain, Ruth	Assessment and Accreditation Coordinator
Childs, Chris	Student Success
DePaolo, Concetta	Scott College of Business
Downs, Wil	Business Affairs
Hampton, Eric	Bayh College of Education
Hare, Molly	College of Nursing, Health, and Human Services
Yousif, Bassam	College of Arts and Sciences
Guest:	
Ms. Jenny Roxas	Student Intern, Student Success

I. Minutes

The minutes from the January 24, 2014, meeting were made available for review. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was approved with two abstentions.

II. Updates

Ruth Cain updated the Council members on the following:

- We have unofficially been notified that ISU has been accepted to the Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Learning Outcomes Assessment. Possibly up to six institutions from each of nine states participating are participating in the initiative to find ways to assess written communication, quantitative literacy, and critical thinking. This initiative is funded by a Gates Foundation grant to the AAC&U and is coordinated by SHEEO.

III. Assess For Success Evaluation

A copy of the evaluation responses summary was provided for the Council members. Responses received were positive. The following comments were noted:

- Every confidence in the conference committee's decisions concerning planning.
- Several wanted more information on the VALUE Rubrics.

The following suggestions were shared.

- Need to continue with Assessment 101 workshop.
- Perhaps workshops could be staggered to give attendees the opportunity to attend more than one. It possibly could be set for internal one day with staggered sessions and external on another day. Another possibility is a series over several weeks.
- Attendance did not seem to be as good as last year, but was generally successful.

- Possibly hold a concurrent session geared towards students. Nicole Bailey has some students interested in assessment. Will Barratt teaches an evaluation class in the fall.

Chris Childs suggested that there might be a way to include Residential Life. They had an assessment conference just for Residential Life staff. Maybe invite them to do a presentation. Eric Hampton said that maybe something could be crafted to be more specific, maybe not for Assess for Success, but for Res Life or the Colleges that might be more useful.

Ruth thought the workshops went well and thanked Concetta DePaolo for the transcript from her workshop. It was noted that some of the non-academic people stayed for the afternoon workshop session. It was a general consensus that the food was good.

IV. Coaching Team Reports

Ruth passed around a sheet and asked for a general update from the coaching teams, if they have met with their groups or if the groups have declined. She also requested volunteers to pick up one or more of four groups from the team that dissolved. Chris mentioned they are going around campus and basically helping other departments with their assessment endeavors.

Coaching concerns:

- Troy Allen mentioned some things that weren't clearly assessment, as a faculty member was asking about Banner. Molly Hare thought some of the big ticket items that she would have addressed were not being addressed. She did not want to prescribe; she wanted them to self-select their options. They are going to try one more time. Molly felt that EES were going after data that they couldn't get due to the methods they were trying to use.

V. Writing Assessment Summary

Ruth distributed the Executive Summary of the Report on Assessment of Writing 2012-2013. Ruth has shared the results with the Foundational Studies Council and with Beth Whitaker, Interim Director of FCTE. Additional sessions will be held this semester. The following thoughts were discussed:

- Would 3 be considered acceptable?
- Should 70% be at the 4 level?
- How can information be shared and have some conversations about what is good enough with the broader faculty?
- Writing enhances critical thinking.

Concetta offered that the starting point should be more local than global. She mentioned a book, *Engaging Ideas: The Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom* by John Bean that is currently being discussed in the FCTE book study. It's about how to integrate writing into course content without sacrificing content, or time or making it burdensome.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.