Assessment Council Minutes 12/13/19

Attendance: Shelley Arvin, Ellen Malito, Greg Bierly, Laura Froelicher, Brian Stone, Kelley Woods-Johnson, Malea Crosby, Paula Jarrard, Whitney Nesser, Bailey Bridgewater, Hung Ha, Maggie Dalrymple, Alyce Hopple, Andreas Kummerow, Deanna Fry

Absent: Kelly Wilkinson, Joe Harder, Eric Hampton, Edie Wittenmyer, Chris Fischer, Nathan Myers, Cary Burch, Dave Nichols

Minutes

10/18 – Andreas motions to approve, Brian seconds the motion. 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstain

11/8 – Andreas motions to approve, Kelley seconds the motion. 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstain

Chair Report – Shelley will go on sabbatical beginning in February so this will be her last Assessment Council meeting prior to that. Brian, as Vice Chair, will step into the role for spring. Shelley reports that she has limited information to share at chair’s report, but she does meet periodically with Kelley about moving initiatives forward between meetings and offer support.

Coordinator Report – SOASR & LMS

Member Reports

Bailey Bridgewater – FS is assessing the GPCD & Literary Studies areas. Bailey is in the process of collecting artifacts. Only 1/3 of them are in by now. 1/17 is the deadline to submit.

Ellen Malito – The state board has required comprehensive learner portal for all institutions in the state, asked to have a basic idea by end of January. Will include co-curricular as well as academic. The state would like all portals to be uniform so there is continuity between institutions, but that makes it difficult for the different institutions involved. Kelley was added to the committee recently, and she says it is related to learning outcomes. The Assessment Council will be very useful in developing this and giving feedback on it. Because of budget cuts, an assessment management tool is probably not likely to happen, but because of this new requirement, it may be easier to request an assessment management tool.

Malea Crosby – College of Ed just finished accreditation site visit; was positive. Only a few areas were listed as needing improvement, which was expected.

Old Business: Assessment Council Policy Library language

Questions about vague policies; language needs to be updated so there is consistency when making decisions. Greg Bierly recommends that the policy language be as flexible as possible to accommodate the advisory character of the Council and avoid frequent editing and re-approval from higher governance. What actually needs to go up for a vote?

The Council is not trying to change its purpose or intent, but make it easier to function in the future. For example, guidelines need to be in place to determine who has voting rights, such as Eric and Malea who are both from the College of Ed. Should the College still have one vote total, one for each representative, etc.? Andreas noted that the wording is very specific, and Ellen commented that it has backed the Council into a corner.

Shelley noted that the representative selection section in the policy needs to be updated to accommodate the different selection methods each College or entity utilizes. The meeting frequency and terms of office need to be addressed. Finally, a Secretary position needs to be added to the policy wording.

Andreas: Strike the number “eight” from the College representative requirements since the number may be fluid; strike or alter the “Student Success” section, modify membership and voting for quorum purposes (example: Susan purposefully does not come to the meetings, which alters the quorum)

Ellen: Possibly add another co-curricular University Engagement representative

Kelley: Add attendance qualification?

Whitney: Standardize language and procedures

Provost’s Award Subcommittee: Shelley explained that the award and cash prize is given to a graduate program and an undergraduate program for excellence in assessment. A subcommittee is formed from the Assessment Council to look over nominees and select the winners. Kelley noted that the nominees must explain what they will do with the cash prize to further their assessment practices. Subcommittee formation will wait until next semester. Andreas, Greg, Paula, Bailey, and Brian all volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

Kelley will bring her office priorities next semester. One priority is a midterm report to the Faculty Senate to make faculty more aware of the Assessment Council’s work.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58.