Assessment Leadership Team Meeting

February 5, 2021

9 AM

Via Zoom

Attendance: Kelley Woods-Johnson, Ellen Malito, Nathan Myers, Shelley Arvin, Malea Crosby, Brian Stone, Ashley Layman, Laura Froelicher, Greg Bierly, Joe Harder, Edit Wittenmyer, Paula Jarrard

Updates from the Chair

Brian reported on English 205 course revisions. The materials had not been submitted so they are still waiting for the results. They are now looking to Fall 2022 for the revisions to be made. Met with interim chair who has money for assessment. Will provide stipends to faculty who teach English 305 and the faculty will get together to norm the assessment of portfolios and then will do the assessment process in pairs.

Shelley said there is no new information on the student writing repository.

Greg Bierly noted that Honors Council will be reviewing the relationship between Foundational Studies and Assessment.

Brian discussed developing the syllabus for Race in the U.S. Questions about Learning Outcomes and whether assignments should be standardized.

Greg Bierly reported on Vice President for Student Affairs search committee. Process getting close to the end. Next week the committee should make recommendations to the President next week. Open forums well attended. There have been assessment related questions and candidates addressed how assessment and student affairs intersect.

Brian noted that they still need volunteers for Assessment Day. They are assessing the SBS category which requires discipline specific knowledge of materials. So they are working to recruit faculty specific from those areas.

Kelley noted it will get done one way or another. The other area is ethics and social responsibility. This is only the second time it has been done. Anticipate learning a lot about rubrics and assignments. Learning as much about the process as they have about student learning. Work will be done between 9 AM-3 PM. Email Bailey Bridgewater to RSVP.

Ashley Layman recognized as new member of the Assessment Leadership Team.

Layman named assessment coordinator for the College of Business. Trying to get a handle on responsibilities. Accreditation visit indicated the need to include course embedded assessment activities.

Kelley suggested that Ashley and Malea could collaborate as college-level assessment coordinators.

Kelley noted that the ad-hoc committees are starting to meet. Nothing major to report at this point. Good plans on how to move forward. Will provide a comprehensive report on SOAS data at the next meeting. Scores are generally up. Return rates have generally been higher.

Kelley planned to do an exercise to help set our agenda for assessment this semester. Previously we had discussed assessment training related to the use of Canvas. Some faculty will transition Fall 2021, full transition in Fall 2022.

Kelley asked for other issues that might be on people’s minds as well. In

Shelley noted that the progress of the repository needs to be on the agenda as well.

Brian noted that videos from the Assessment Institute are now available. Reviewing those videos could provide ideas about what trainings to offer.

Kelley noted that IUPUI is providing the Institute meeting for free again this year. Register if interested. The presentations run the gamut from general to very specific. As it is virtual and recorded, sessions can be reviewed later. Generally occurs the second or third week of October.

Kelley raised the discussion of how COVID-19 has affected classroom assessment.

Malea noted effects on comprehensive student teaching and how that has been affected. In a lot of schools faculty are not allowed to reserve. A lot of responsibility has fallen to host teachers. Field experiences have been precluded as well. Using teaching pods to simulate real-world experience. Current rubrics are not designed for virtual teaching. More training is needed with host teachers, but there are many and they are spread throughout the state.

Kelley noted that a lot of education students learn from field experiences whether they want to pursue the profession, so that could have repercussions down the road.

Kelley noted that not a lot of pressure will be put on co-curricular assessment for the time being as people are continuing to have deal with pressures from COVID-19. Shelley noted the library has a new interim chair and hopes to start moving forward with assessment efforts.

Brian reported working with Nursing on teaching the one-credit writing course for nursing. He is encouraged by the building of strong, enduring relationships. He expects to bring Canvas training and assessment training together. Also being discussed in conversations about the Race in the U.S. class.

Brian talked a little more about English 205 and the assessment of English 305 portfolios.

Kelley raised the question about how to best leverage funds available to the Assessment Council. Two main sources are assessment grants. $500 grants and three $1,000 awards to programs exhibiting strong assessment capabilities through the Provost’s Award. We will definitely need to discuss these uses moving forward. Think about how we can better communicate with faculty about how to effectively use the funds in permissible ways. It might be worthwhile to think about changes to how the funds can be used and removing some restrictions, such as using funds for stipends.

Another item is establishing a committee for the Provost’s Award.

Brian noted that the winds are back in students’ sails and there is energy in the classroom. Edie Wittenmyer seconded this, noting that students are more engaged. Concern that assessment numbers from last year were going to fall because faculty were more disconnected. There seemed to be a strong difference between spring and fall of 2020. Surprised by the level of energy of the students.

Greg provided a picture as evidence of this from the Presidential Scholars class. There was a lot of evident enthusiasm in regard to being together. A little in-person interaction makes a big difference.

Kelley noted this is a good to hear in light of numbers of students who did not return this semester.

Next week is full Assessment Council. We will have some reports from the ad-hoc committee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.