Assessment Leadership Team Meeting

March 5, 2021

9 AM via Zoom

Attendees: Kelley Woods-Johnson, Joe Harder, Brian Stone, Greg Bierly, Laura Froelicher, Shelley Arvin, Ellen Malito, Nathan Myers, Edie Wittenmyer

Reports from the Chair:

E-Portfolios: Some meetings organized. Helpful feedback from Assessment Council. Good feedback that this is a potential resource, but won’t be enforced from the top down. Putting out feelers to see who is interested. Chris Fischer provided helpful suggestions regard assessment and how e-portfolios could be useful. Edie noted that they already use e-portfolios. Perhaps she could provide recommendations for what a successful e-portfolio should look like and move away from abstractions.

Bailey reached out to Tradaura at the Career Center. They use the Handshake profile and they are skeptical of e-portfolios being used in a way that does not hinder their employment opportunities. Stephanie Pearcy found that with graduate students there may be interest in e-portfolios. How should a variety of experiences be accounted for? Trying to get student feedback on use of e-portfolios. Working on getting graduate assistants access to Canvas to start experimenting with e-portfolio functions.

Heather M. provided information about culminating experiences for different programs to get a sense of where e-portfolios could be useful. We need to get a sense of how they can work for our institution. Instructional designers are creating a sandbox to begin experimenting with e-portfolio use.

Edie noted that she will be working during the summer because they are working on accreditation for all 4 programs. She will be redeveloping the senior project class to create a formal proposal over two semesters (437 and 438). Students will take a proposal about build upon it. Edie will be helping with the advancement by doing a complete overhaul of the process. Students will end up with their own portfolio at the end. Hope to get businesses and corporations involved. Perhaps students could develop some of the ideas that they do not have time for.

Brian noted the value of getting students engaged with “real world” experience. Edie provided some examples of projects that students are engaged in, including educational programs for summer camps. Students are also working bringing the fire department parade robot to “state of the art” status.

Report from the Coordinator

Kelley met with Kristie Bigler and she noted a lot of interest in early Canvas access. Full roll-out will begin in Spring 2022. Don’t wait to start planning until Fall 2022. Training will be announced after mid-March. Don’t expect it to be too complicated. The Canvas system is more intuitive. Should be a relatively simple transition. Looking at long-term trainings for implementation. Right now the focus is on transitioning courses. Bigler believes Canvas will be a relief to many faculty.

SOAS Review: Kelley hopes to have final feedback out to faculty and associated bodies in the next couple of weeks. Numbers are a little off because more reports are coming. Participation is slightly higher than last year. HLC Commission did ask about why participation was not 100%. Need to continue to improve. Overall rating 2.43 is in the mature range. Overall report quality improved. All of the categories are in the mature range. Still challenges regarding results and analysis. Need to decide if it is a report structure issue or an issue with assessment practice.

Seen improvement with faculty taking previous findings and making improvements based on them. A large percentage of students are meeting expectations for learning outcomes. Keeps it vague because there is no set standard for meeting expectations across programs. This makes it difficult to compare across programs. We also want programs to be honest about their students’ challenges in meeting outcomes. We don’t want people to get concerned about reporting results. Some programs have unreasonably low expectations. Particularly an issue with graduate programs. Doesn’t make sense for graduate students to aim for 70% mastery when a B is needed to graduate. Kelley will provide more detail when all program directors have received feedback. Kelley asked for questions. None were offered.

Foundational Studies Assessment

Wrapped up for this cycle. A second day was required to complete the process using discipline specific expertise. This has caused logistical challenges, but no plans to change the requirement. We are finding that our assessment process has improved to make the data more reliable.

DSA Assessment Committee

Kelley and Ellen are working on co-curricular reporting. DSA staff has little interest in practical questions, but more concern about taking information and making it clear how Student Affairs contributes to the overall mission. Changes will be put on hold until after transition to the new Vice President of Student Affairs. Ellen noted that it seems like they may have been asking the wrong question initially. Co-curricular areas are looking for vision in the process. Kelley was very encouraged by the conversation in the assessment committee.

Kelley asked for reports from members.

Shelley noted that the library has new chair for assessment. Will be meeting soon. Shelley is chairing the program review subcommittee. Met with ad-hoc committee regarding reporting. This is a follow-up to trying to align different reporting. Graduate College is trying to create better alignment. Attempt to make reporting deadlines and requirements more manageable. Shelley made some comments based on the SOAS and our reporting standards.

Joe noted that College of Business has started a steering committee to improve seamlessness of assessment. One idea is using Microsoft Teams. Those familiar with Teams have discussed a number of potentially useful features. Ellen noted that her unit is also moving to transition to Teams.

Ad-Hoc Committees

Reporting: Kelley and Chris Fischer met with faculty to talk about different perspectives related to assessment reporting. Working on a survey to send out to faculty assessment authors. Will give faculty an opportunity to self-identify in case they want to participate in a future focus group. No firm decision on whether reporting will change for Fall 2021. Co-curricular assessment will be put on hold. Process is currently modeled on academic assessment. Haven’t gotten into discussions about evaluating reporting.

Strategic Planning: Identifying priorities to focus on. Currently have 8 major priorities. We will present those to the Assessment Council for feedback and ranking of priorities. In April, we hope to have some action steps.

No old business to discuss.

Call for volunteers for the Provost Award committee. Kelley is trying to get a student representative. Would be tasked to review the highest rated reports in each College. One undergraduate and one graduate program will win an award. Anyone who won in the last 3 years will not be eligible. Not a huge time commitment and reports are reviewed on your own time. Should wrap up work by early April.

IUPUI Assessment Conference is coming up. Could look at having discussions about e-portfolios based on conference sessions. Registration remains open.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.