

Academic Assessment Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes - October 2, 2017, 3:05pm

Guest: Stephen Cohen, Faculty Senate President and on behalf of the NEASC steering committee

Present: Cassandra Broadus-Garcia (Co-chair, Art), Mel Horton (Co-chair, SEPS), Sharon Clapp (Secretary, Library), Jim Mulrooney (BMS/SEPS), Helen Abadiano (SEPS), Marian Anton (Math), Bradley Kjell (CS), Mary Anne Nunn (English), Yvonne Kirby (OIRA), Martha Kruy (permanent guest, Library), Marianne Fallon (CLASS), Dan Chase (BMS/SEST), C. Christopher Lee (Management & Organization), Kareem Shabana (Management & Organization), Heather Rodriguez (CLASS)

- I. Minutes from 09/18/17 approval
 - A. Cassandra proposed fix to typo on minutes (Meeting dates changed from September 28 to Sept. 18, 2017 and "Next Meeting" dates changes from Oct. 3 to Oct. 2, 2017.) *Mel / Jim moved to approve minutes as amended. Minutes passed with a unanimous vote.*
 - B. Cassandra asked about the absence of online website AAC meeting minutes from 2016-17. Discussion point: Posting of minutes for AAC is not required.

II. Guest Stephen Cohen, CCSU Faculty Senate President about Assessment of Gen Ed

Stephen notes that a major issue foreseen for our NEASC accreditation will likely be issues with the assessment of Gen Ed. CCSU needs to show movement/progress in this areas. He discussed the two models for GenEd assessment currently in place, each very different. He stated that neither were fully implemented. Questions posed by Dr. Cohen: Where Gen Ed is multi-disciplinary, how do we assess into a disciplinary Skill and/or Study Area? How well is the MSC matched to our GenEd series of Study and Skill Area courses? What are we assessing in Gen Ed?

Cassandra Broadus-Garcia and Yvonne Kirby presented an overview of how NEASC requires assessment of General Education Learning Outcomes - what students will be able to do by the time they graduate. Cassandra pointed out how, since 2014, CCSU has been nationally recognized for our MSC work, including the way in which the MSC model is being used at the institution level to measure student learning. Cassandra reminded members that Faculty Senate votes on 4/13/15 and 3/14/16 approved the MSC model as a pilot for CCSU GenEd assessment. She reported that a full GenEd assessment report is being prepared for the NEASC report. This report will address NEASC's 2013 request for a full report on the university's use of the MSC model for the assessment of student learning in General Education and will be presented to the Faculty Senate.

III. CSCU Assessment Initiative: A CSCU Assessment Council Activity – Yvonne Kirby, OIRA Director

A review of the CSCU's Assessment Initiative draft was presented and discussed. Yvonne noted that the draft document title should read, "*CSCU Assessment Initiative*", not "*CCSU Assessment Initiative*". CCSU's OIRA or AAC had no input on this document. Committee members expressed concerns which included, but were not limited to: (1) the proposed initiative dictates very specific year-by-year assessments with no apparent flexibility; (2) non-CCSU faculty scoring our students' artifacts when no formal system-wide norming protocols are in place; (3) document language that suggests faculty teaching performance could be measured (viz., "*System should also define its aspirational expectations for student accomplishments as yardsticks of educational effectiveness and quality.*"); (4) Institutional standards presented in the document are unrealistic and not grounded on existing MSC data, both nationally and within CT institutions; and (5)

how CCSU might be perceived by the system office if we choose to not participate in the system initiative, but rather continue with the established campus-based model in which we are currently involved.

The committee reviewed NEASC Standards of Accreditation 4.15 and 4.16 related to General Education (https://cihe.neasc.org/standards-policies/standards-accreditation/standards-effective-july-1-2016#standard_four) and discussed how our current MSC model is aligned with NEASC expectations. Discussion also included (1) how the AAC's charge is to assess student learning, both in the academic programs and in general education, but not to rewrite the Learning Outcomes – the responsibility of the Curriculum Committee; (2) how learning objectives/outcomes are the basis for the Gen Ed courses; and (3) how language of the GenEd objectives/outcomes is aspirational, as seen in the General Education Outcomes section of the CCSU catalog at <http://ccsu.smartcatalogiq.com/current/Undergraduate-Graduate-Catalog/Undergraduate-General-Education-Program>.

Cassandra proposes that all members thoroughly read and forward any suggestions to her as a formal response to the CSCU document will be prepared, presented to the AAC and then brought before the Faculty Senate as soon as possible. A framework for our response to the system office is not prescribed, but should be submitted as soon as possible.

A CSCU meeting on October 27th for an Aqua system demonstration is being presented by the system. Jim Mulrooney volunteered to attend and represent the AAC. He will report on the results of this meeting at a future AAC meeting.

IV. Development of an AAC MSC Sub-Committee

Cassandra proposed that an AAC MSC Sub-Committee be created to assist with MSC initiatives in 2017-2018. Members volunteering to serve on this committee include Chris Lee, Martha Kruey, Marian Anton, and Cassandra Broadus-Garcia. Committee responsibilities during the 2017-2018 year will include, but may not be limited to (a) planning and implementation of a January 2018 Assessment Retreat to score Civic Engagement and Information Literacy artifacts; and (b) assist in the implementation of 2017-18 MSC assessment initiatives.

V. Wrap-up

Dr. Mel Horton will lead committee at our next meeting, 10/9/17. The norming session and review of full reports will be moved to this meeting. Mel asks everyone review and upload their B.S. in Accounting scores to Taskstream before Friday, 10/6/17 so that she can compile the data before the Monday meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Clapp