

Academic Assessment Committee

Minutes for September 15, 2008

In attendance: C. Broadus-Garcia, B. Hosch, G. Mejia, C. Menoche, J. Mulrooney, M.A. Nunn, M. Gendron, S. Lesik, A. Pozorski

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from May 1, 2008 were approved.

Committee Administration and Elections

B. Hosch reported that he had contacted the Faculty Senate President as well as Sharon Braverman and David Sianez on the Elections Committee about conducting elections for four new members. Elected members should be able to join the Committee by the second meeting in October, at which time a formal Chair of the Committee will be elected. Dr. Hosch will continue to coordinate the group until that time.

Assessment Report to the Board of Trustees

B. Hosch reported that Board Resolution BR05-38 which requires CSU institutions to provide an annual report on assessment to the Board by June 30 was enforced for the first time in Summer 2008. He prepared this report and the President delivered a brief synopsis of it to the Board in mid-July. Dr. Hosch indicated that he would like to place this report on the web with the Committee's approval -- the report contains a brief overview of first-year student performance on the Collegiate Learning Assessment. He will ask for this approval at a subsequent meeting.

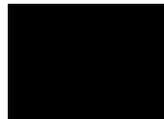
Collegiate Learning Assessment

B. Hosch provided the Committee with results from the 2007-08 administration of the CLA. He provided an overview of methodological strengths and weaknesses of the instrument. This report indicates that the student performance was observed to be at the following levels:

First-Year Students:

Seniors:

Institutional Value Added:



Dr. Hosch also reported that initial findings suggest that students whose scores were above expected tended to have overall GPAs above 3.0 and students who performed below expected levels had GPAs below 3.0, which may confirm that the test is measuring educational gain to some extent. However, he also indicated that time spent on the CLA seems to account for the largest proportion of variation on the test, with each minute spent on the test equating to an increase of about 4 points on the scaled score. This finding suggests that scores may be heavily influenced by student motivation, and scores may be difficult to interpret because of uneven motivation within the institution and across participating institutions. Dr. Hosch summarized by saying despite some of the methodological flaws, the activity may be a useful means of answering external calls for accountability, even though its utility as an assessment instrument (a tool that can help the institution improve) may be limited. Committee members observed that some of the research-based findings confirmed the Committee's early reservations about using the CLA.

National Survey of Student Engagement

B. Hosch reported on results from the 2008 administration of the National Survey of Student Engagement. Response rates increased from 14% in 2007 to 23% in 2008 due to a change in administration practices and incentives offered for participation. These methods will be used again in Spring 2009. A summary of general education findings indicated the same rank ordering of general education related outcomes observed in 2007, but performance of first-year students increased markedly and performance of seniors declined slightly. In all likelihood these changes are related somewhat to the increase in response rates. Dr. Hosch also began some discussion about why students reported lower levels of institutional contribution toward knowledge, skills, and personal development in the area of “contributing to the welfare of your community.” Proposed explanations for this finding were mixed.

Update on Degree Program Assessment Reports

B. Hosch reported that between 6 and 10 assessment reports for 2007-08 had already been submitted. There were 63 responses to the assessment “survey” regarding the 2006-07 academic year. The Committee had requested reports from each of the 91 degree-granting programs (using DHE definitions – see <http://www.ccsu.edu/oira/data/factbook/ProgInventory.htm>). The Due date is Sept. 22, 2008. The Committee will devise a plan for review at the October 6 meeting following a review what has been submitted.

Meeting Schedule for 2008-09

The meeting schedule for 2008-09 is as follows

Day	Date	Time	Location
M	9/15/2008	3:30pm-5:00pm	Clock Tower SC
M	10/6/2008	3:30pm-5:00pm	1849 Room SC
M	10/20/2008	3:30pm-5:00pm	1849 Room SC
M	11/3/2008	3:30pm-5:00pm	1849 Room SC
M	11/17/2008	3:30pm-5:00pm	1849 Room SC
M	12/1/2008	3:30pm-5:00pm	Clock Tower SC
M	2/2/2009	3:30pm-5:00pm	1849 Room SC
M	3/2/2009	3:30pm-5:00pm	1849 Room SC
M	3/16/2009	3:30pm-5:00pm	1849 Room SC
M	4/6/2009	3:30pm-5:00pm	1849 Room SC
M	4/20/2009	3:30pm-5:00pm	1849 Room SC
M	5/4/2009	3:30pm-5:00pm	1849 Room SC

Respectfully submitted,
Braden Hosch