Assessment Council  
October 1, 2013, 3:30 PM

Presiding Officer: Dr. Keri Franklin, Director, Office of Assessment

Members present: Jan Atwell, Kelly Cara, Peter Collins, Rachelle Darabi, Bill Edgar, Keri Franklin, Dana Frederick, Lyn Gattis, Sarah Gray, Lisa Hall, Mary Ann Jennings, Thomas Lane, Juan Meraz, Patti Salinas, Rachel Schober, James Sottile, Christy Sudbrock, Sue Webb  
Members not present: Shyang Huang, Libby Rozell, Crystal Gale, Diana Piccolo

Call to order: 3:30 PM

Announcements:

- National Survey of Student Engagement 2012 report is now online.
- Center for Inquiry visit – looking at MSU assessment processes and providing feedback.
  - What about assessment can students contribute? How they are graded or assessed in the classroom?
  - Helping address how students are involved in assessment at MSU.
  - Presentation for CGEIP and later for Gen Ed course assessment leaders.
- General Education Assessment Presentation, Tuesday, October 8, 3:00-4:00, Karls 101.
- Quality Initiative Review Workshop, Saturday, October 26, Union Club, Plaster Student Union.
  - A small stipend and meals will be provided.
  - Council members can email Dr. Franklin if they want to participate.
- Please encourage faculty and staff to submit student work related to public affairs for the Quality Initiative Project.
  - Promote QIP by handing out fliers and posting them in departments and colleges.
  - Contact the Office of Assessment with questions.
- Interested in NSSE, BSSE, Exit Exam, or QIP results? We are developing an inquiry-based one-hour program for colleges or departments interested in reviewing university-wide data in a confidential and engaging manner.
  - Plan to give presentations for each college. Purpose is to promote discussion and planning at the department level.
  - Will give a practice presentation to the Assessment Council first to gather feedback.
- Changes in Institutional Research Staff
  - Director and a research analyst moving to new positions.
  - Please share job announcements with colleagues or others who might like to apply.

Old Business:

- Review of the charge for Assessment Council.
- Assessment for Improvement (Office of Assessment) and Assessment for Accountability (Office of Institutional Research).
- University Exit Exam recommendation
  - After reviewing summer 2013 pilot study results, Assessment Council voted for online, non-proctored administration of the exam.
  - Final decision will be made in ALC on 10/2/13.
New Business:

- Quality Initiative Project (QIP) results
  - Review of data tables (overall means, progression by course level, public affairs-related courses)
  - Discussion about what “not present” data meant
    - For the QIP, not all assignments were expected to cover everything in the rubric.
    - The rubric was not a grading rubric – it was simply an identification of what was present in the work being evaluated.
    - It is not enough for students to be able to recognize the mission. Our aim is to make students realize that our mission is worth focusing on in our various disciplines, but we aren’t there yet.
    - Have there been discussions about including public affairs questions on the end-of-year course evaluations?
      - We could make a recommendation about that.
      - Kelly Cara will send a copy of the Public Affairs Scale (PAS) to Council and a copy of the PAS report comparing first-year and senior students.
  - Thoughts on the QIP data:
    - Numbers seem low (even though that doesn’t mean something is wrong).
    - Knowing that we are just trying to get a sense of where our students are, that helps our understanding of the numbers (or acceptance of them).
      - Next, we could talk about how to improve.
      - Next, we could look at how the assignments are created.
    - It would be meaningful to ask professors what they were trying to address.
    - Many of the assignments showed that students could identify the mission but that they couldn’t show how they internalized it.
    - It doesn’t seem right to use one evaluation tool to assess people at different levels. We expect freshmen to do differently.
      - The rubric allows us to capture a little bit of information – it’s not perfect, but it allows us to view PA in a different way.
    - Given our expectations for students at the higher levels, are we satisfied with the scores that we see? That is what the university should be asking.
    - Feedback from the reviewers is also valuable to look at – we’ll send that out.
    - Add tips for how to look at the info and what to consider as you read the reports.

- Gen Ed Assessment
  - What do you think about past Gen Ed assessment processes?
  - What did you like/not like?
  - Looking at the new gen ed course proposals, assessment plans were included, but they look hard to accomplish (perhaps too lofty).
    - Could pick just one goal to assess each year.

- College Assessment Results survey
  - Each college submitted info about their student learning outcomes, the assessment activities they have been doing, etc.
  - Glance over these.
    - Could college and departmental SLOs be different? For COAL, the college website shows SLOS, but 0% of departments have them posted, according to the report.