Assessment Council Minutes
April 8th, 2014, PSU 317

Members in Attendance: Peter Collins, Keri Franklin, Dana Frederick, Lyn Gattis, Sarah Gray, Sue Webb, Rachel Schober, Taylor Mize, Michelle Olsen.

Announcements and Updates
1. New Office of Assessment website is complete.
2. Quality Initiative Project (QIP) Scoring Conference is May 20-23
3. Please encourage faculty and staff to submit student work related to public affairs for the Quality Initiative Project.
4. Next Meeting: May 6 from 3:30-5:00 in PSU 317f
   a) The group discussed developing a map to show the movement of institutional assessment information throughout the university.
   b) Further discussion is scheduled for the next meeting.

Old Business
1. Minutes reviewed by group
   a. Request for a draft of the GEN 499 add-on questions (senior survey) that were revised at the February 26 Assessment Council meeting.
   b. What kinds of tests are departments, colleges, and the institution administering regarding student proficiency?

New Business
1. GEN 499 Proposal
   a. ETS® Proficiency Profile taken by students enrolled in GEN 499.
   b. Discussion of alternative GEN 499 options for future semesters.
   c. Recommendation/proposal was given to the group regarding exit exams.
      i. It was noted the ETS® Proficiency Profile aligns closely with the American College Testing (ACT) exam.
      ii. Discussion about how the exam ties to Key Performance Indicators.
      iii. What information from the exam could be used for MSU?
   d. Could the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) be administered through GEN 499?
Students would either get the NSSE, Public Affairs Scale, or ETS Proficiency Profile during a pilot study in spring 2015.

Currently all students take both the Public Affairs Scale and an abbreviated version of the ETS® Proficiency Profile.

Discussion regarding the differences between the three instruments.

Could departmental Major Field Tests (MFT) be used?

Council asked for copies of the ETS® Proficiency Profile, NSSE, Critical Thinking Appraisal (CTA), and the Public Affairs Scale.

Discussion of other tests that could be used in place of the ETS® Proficiency Profile and critical thinking exams.

Should transfer students take the exam since MSU hasn’t taught their General Education (Gen Ed) classes?

Is it okay to have flexibility with exit exams?

Discussion of using critical thinking tests by department/program to tailor exams to students’ specific academic fields.

What does the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) expect from these exams?

How many colleges don’t use standardized exams?

GEN 499 recommendation: Beginning in summer 2014, the Office of Institutional Research will randomly sample students from the GEN 499 course to take either

i. the standard form of the ETS® Proficiency Profile (as opposed to the abbreviated version)

ii. or the Public Affairs Scale long form and choose one open-ended public affairs question developed and reviewed by Assessment Council.

Those in attendance agreed to send the GEN 499 recommendation to the Provost.

Members not in attendance were emailed for feedback.

Tabled discussion on Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) Faculty Survey

Recognition of Assessment Council Members

Minutes by Tamara Flores.