

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

April 4, 2006, 1:30pm
SUB Conference Room

Those Present: David Gillette, Erika Woehlk, Garry Gordon, Maria Di Stefano, Sue Pieper, Karen Smith, John O'Brien, Barbara Price, Glenn Wehner, Dave Rector, Lou Ann Gilchrist, Nancy Asher, Brandon Large, Candy Young, John Bohac

I. Discussion on Junior Tests and Budget

- A. The assessment budget must be cut by \$30,000. The DIG has the opportunity today to provide input and opinion to the Vice President as to where that \$30,000 should come from.
- B. J. O'Brien, G. Wehner, and C. Young looked over copies of the CAAP in the Assessment and Testing Office.
 1. Arguments against continued use of the CAAP:
 - a. The mathematics section is too basic; there is very little trigonometry and no calculus.
 - b. The reading, science, and critical thinking sections are too closely related; the science section seems to be testing reading comprehension more than science.
 - c. The test is no longer value-added because first-year students no longer take the CAAP.
 - d. The CAAP is used primarily at community colleges. The way the questions were written was to discriminate very well for moderately-performing students, but not very well for high ability or low ability students. Therefore, Truman's percentage results (especially on the math section) are somewhat misleading. With the mathematics section, a perfect score gets a student into the 99th percentile; however, if a student misses one question, s/he is bumped down to close to the 80th percentile. Consequently, our students might look like they're doing worse than they are. The tests can't discriminate well for Truman's high ability students.
 2. Arguments for continued use of the CAAP.
 - a. The scores suggest that our students are not doing as well as they should in reading comprehension. Further testing, therefore, might be warranted.
 - b. These tests have a long history at Truman. The State knows what they measure; the CAAP is "transparent" to the public. If it is eliminated from our assessment program, what will the public look to for an indicator of general education performance?
 - c. What will replace general education assessment if the junior tests are gone?
Response: Possibly the CLA.
 3. Decision/Compromise.

- a. It might be possible to offer one module of the CAAP per year to all juniors (students with greater than 75 credits). This can save \$6 per student. At the same time, eliminate the Academic Profile – the MAPP is replacing the Profile and will cost \$13.50 per student – and offer the CLA to senior students who would normally have to take the GRE as their senior test.
- b. No decision could be reached at this meeting.

C. MAE Praxis Exam for exiting MAE students

1. Arguments for ceasing to pay for students to take the Praxis.
 - a. It is a certification exam the students have to take regardless who pays for it.
 - b. Truman does not pay for Communication Disorders graduate students to take their certification exam or for accounting majors to take the CPA exam.
 - c. Cutting funding here will allow for some funds to be moved to assessment measures that the University uses for improvement.
2. Arguments for continuing to pay for students to take the Praxis.
 - a. It is a graduation requirement that MAE students score at a percentage higher than what the State requires for certification.
 - b. Truman pays for the undergraduate Health Science certification exam (the CHES).
 - c. Continuing funding here will support our MAE students.
3. Decision/Compromise. No decision was made.

D. The DIG will hold a special meeting on April 18 at 1:30 to come to a conclusion on these various, important issues.

II. CLA Update – Sue Pieper – this agenda item is postponed until the May 2 DIG meeting.

III. Student Engagement Survey Update – David Gillette – this agenda item is postponed until the May 2 DIG meeting.

IV. Interview Project Update – Jeffrey Vittengl – this agenda item is postponed until the May 2 DIG meeting.

V. Portfolio Project Update – Karen Smith – this agenda item is postponed until the May 2 DIG meeting.

VI. Announcement: The final Spring 2006 Assessment Colloquium will feature Sue Pieper, Maria Di Stefano, and Dominick Scalise talking about promoting student success on April 25, 4:30pm, in the Student Union Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 2:38pm.

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