

2009-2010 Assessment Committee

March 16, 2010

12:30-1:30 P.M.

VH 2151

Members Present: Karen Smith, Adrien Presley, Joseph Sencibaugh, Scott Alberts, Nancy Asher, Maria Di Stefano, Daette Lambert, Elaine McDuff, Charles Tomlinson

Members Absent: Paul Yoder, Andrei Klyukovski, Erin Blankers, Doug Davenport, Marty Eisenberg, Troy Paino

- K. Smith has been tracking the hits on Truman's assessment website specifically to determine if many people are looking at the *Assessment Almanac*. She will look at the structure of the *Almanac* during the summer, and she would like to know specific parts of the *Almanac* that people use and want to keep.
- Subcommittee updates:
 - Moods and Emotions: This subcommittee met to discuss the existing data sources for students' moods and emotions. These sources show that Truman students have a lot of emotional stress; however, this seems to be a national trend for all college students. Truman students appear to be stressed more academically than financially. What can be done about this? There are some options with the Student Interview Project (see below), and NASPA is doing a survey that we could administer which would cost us around \$2,000. Should we look at the broad causes and concerns of stress or should we focus specifically on academic stress with the purpose of working toward reducing it?
 - Advising: This subcommittee is moving forward and will bring to the next Assessment Committee meeting a resolution asking the Provost to do a study on advising. This study will seek to determine what is currently happening with advising, what advising would ideally look like, and what the mindset is about advising.
- Potential topics for the next Student Interview Project:
 - The Project could focus on student stress with the goal of thinking of things we could do differently at Truman to make an impact in this area. It could give students the chance to talk about specific, addressable issues. The Project could focus on very specific topics where we could have an impact, such as things faculty do in the classroom that cause stress. Maybe students would be more willing to talk about academic stress than personal stress. Another approach would be to find out how stressed Truman students were before they came to Truman. This might help distinguish how many students are stressed from being at Truman versus how many students tend to always be stressed. We could also look at good stress versus bad stress, and maybe the New Student Programs advisors could provide information about their observations.
 - Another possible topic would be transformative learning experiences. Maybe stress could be addressed next year and this topic could come the following year.
- LSP assessment:
 - There has been a yearly review schedule for the LSP modes overseen by Undergraduate Council (UGC), but it has been awhile since one of these reviews has been conducted. How could we help get these reviews back on track now that we know the LSP will not be significantly changing?

- The LSP reviews could be housed under and overseen by the different schools. Deans probably have a vested interest in seeing these reviews accomplished. However, keeping them within UGC upholds the idea of campus-ownership of the LSP.
 - Other options are for the Assessment Committee to remind UGC to regularly review the modes, for the Assessment Committee to try to do some of the review itself, or for all of the strategies above to work together.
 - The force of will to get these reviews done is what is lacking. The LSP modes and JINS are the reviews that appear to have fallen through the cracks.
 - The Assessment Committee agreed that perhaps there should be a joint task force of Assessment Committee members, UGC members, and Deans to oversee these LSP reviews.
- Announcements:
 - S. Alberts will bring the critical thinking and critical speaking rubrics for the Portfolio Project to our April meeting.
 - The Advising and Growth and Change Models subcommittees will report at our April meeting.
 - K. Smith will bring a progress report on the joint task force for LSP reviews to our April meeting.
 - Our next meeting will be April 14 at 2:30pm in VH 2151. We will discuss next year's meetings and membership.

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