Assessment Leadership Team Meeting

Friday, January 15, 2021

9 AM via Zoom

Attendance: Kelley Woods-Johnson, Brian Stone, Joe Harder, Greg Bierly, Shelley Arvin, Laura Froelicher, Ellen Malito, Nathan Myers

Chair Update: Things up in the air in English and CAS. There was a lot of support for building writing programs across campus, but that could change with the changes in administration. English chair search is on-going. Great deal of anxiety with the lower enrollment. Non-tenure track faculty is particularly concerned. Took time off from collecting portfolios to reduce anxiety. Both chair candidates are strong options.

Previous chair was not as engaged with “closing the loop” on assessment. Will collect English 305 portfolios this semester. Assessment results helped to shape proposed curriculum. With 305, the research category was a challenge. Found out a lot about the process and limited resources. Need to focus on different courses during different semesters. Want to make sure the data is not skewed by particular portfolios. Also collected portfolios from College Challenge classes and they scored better on research, which raised questions. Next year, English 105 may be 205.

Excited about transition to Canvas. Those who have used it before are excited. Transition likely to cause anxiety. Creates potential for e-portfolios. Presentations can also be recorded and preserved for assessment. Would be useful to provide workshops regarding Canvas and assessment. May want to talk about it this semester, but may want to wait until after the transition.

Joe: Kelly Wilkinson sent out an email about using Canvas for assessment. The real issue will be getting people interested enough in using rubrics in Canvas for assessment. Don’t focus so much on the nuts and bolts of how it works. Make people aware that the tools are available.

Kelley: Two potential tracks. Chris Fischer and Kelley are meeting about using Canvas for assessment next week. Looking at permission structure for looking at data across courses. Most granular permission is at the department level. Provide more targeted training for those who need wider access to information. Different colleges are taking different approaches in terms of who should have access. Great opportunities to evaluate honors students.

Greg: May have a course as an Honors course and also an upper level elective. Needs to be reviewed. There are situations where different groups of students share experiences with a faculty member in a class.

Kelley: People will be able to access data for cross-listed courses. Option for providing master rubrics without giving people with administrative access access to every course. In regard to instructors teaching multi-section classes, it would be good to provide instructors with training. Definitely good opportunities for workshops on particular topics. Kelley asked about Canvas timeline. No one had definitive information. Canvas was able to cut money from the contract in exchange for quicker implementation. Assessment Council should partner with co-curricular technology units on workshops. Would be a good professional development opportunity for contingent faculty. Trainings Joe mentioned will begin mid-semester.

Brian and Shelley are going to nursing program for writing workshop. Strong interest in writing instruction in the nursing program. Shelley has strong relationships there.

Kelley: In their assessment report last time, nursing indicated the importance of improving writing, despite the fact that students don’t understand why it is so important since they are practitioners.

Update from Coordinator: SOAS reports have been reviewed, but held off on distribution until this semester. Is working on summarizing those reports. Response rates have gone up in some area, down in others. 100% compliance from Education. CAS above 90%. HHS is missing just one report. College of Technology is over 50%. Expects to see an increase in reports. COVID-19 was not an extensive focus of the reports. May be due to focus more on a fall data than spring. Next round of reports are likely to be more affected by COVID-19.

Ad-Hoc Committees: Meeting last week of January. Materials coming out next week to prepare for meeting.

Foundational Studies Assessment Day: Saturday, Feb. 6th. Stipends will be provided to faculty. Reviewing Ethics and Social Responsibility and Social and Behavioral Sciences category.

Proposal deadline for national assessment conference is coming up.

Greg: Honors College is looking at revision to assessment in light of growth in assessment metrics. A lot of students did not register for spring. Relatively small compared to other colleges. Able to email and ask about why. Looking at a reduced admit class. Trying to anticipate issues and head them off.

Kelley: Don’t envy those trying to figure out how to get students back to the fall. Students ISU serve are most at risk for not returning. Appreciate the work of all those addressing this issue.

Greg: Whole year has taken a mental health toll. Finances are another major concern. Students were trying to figure out what was going on with financial aid. Students were trying to get holds resolved.

Kelley: Students in other areas are likely experiencing the same thing. The mental health issue is evident. People are in survival mode. Hopefully students are getting support. Hope we can address bureaucratic barriers. Some programs are better resources to be able to track down students and try to resolve issues.

Ellen: No updates on the VP search. In the process of hiring an ombudsperson who will also be the associate director of Sycamores Care. Two very solid candidates. Looking to move forward quickly to get someone into the Dean of Students to do work that is non-COVID related. Hoping to make a decision very soon. Also hiring two, part-time, no benefit contact tracer positions. Hope to get some stronger applicants than the previous search.

Greg: Completed Zoom interviews of a longer-list of applicants. Passed the information on to upper administration and waiting for word on further interviews.

Shelley: Library looking for a new chair. Assessment is kind of on hold until the new chair comes in. Associate Dean retiring in June. Steven Patton will be covering that position temporarily. Assessment on hold while leadership changes are being worked out.

Kelley: Grad Council is reviewing and revising graduate program review. Many have been eager for this since the process can seem redundant. Want an improved process that will provide more meaningful data and more meaningful outcomes. Shelley has connected Kelley to the conversation. There are many ideas that will generate new data while improving efficiency and effectiveness.

Agenda-setting for the spring semester. Kelley will table it due to people not being able to attend. Canvas training would be one issue. But think of some other possibilities as well.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.