Assessment Leadership Team Meeting

10-16-2020

9AM via Zoom

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

Chair’s Report: Update on writing initiative gaining momentum. Assessment will be key. New HIP category and some UDIE categories will require junior level comp. Writing will be a required element. New prompt for the spring portfolio based on the last assessment and the findings from that. Based on the assessment results and the HIP and UDIE categories will only be collecting portfolios from 105 and 305. Revised program and waiting to hear from curriculum committee. English 101 may no longer exist. Meet with faculty to help them develop assessments. The department will provide a primary resource for helping other programs assess writing. Anyone who is interested, please contact Brian Stone. Already had some experience with this in the Nursing program. One issue that came up was outcomes and how to assess outcomes.

Kelley asked about the department chair. Brian indicates that it will be an expedited process. Did nominations and will do surveys of the candidates. Dean will select interim, and then a full-time replacement will be hired next year. Hope to change assessment so there is more a feedback loop.

Coordinator’s Report: Starting to receive SOAS reports. Big task is to begin to inventory them so they can begin working through them. There are a lot of new chairs that may still be finishing. More comprehensive report on return rate at the next ALT meeting. Maybe some early data on scores.

Member Reports: Shelley said she had people verifying that a report had been turned in from the library.

Joe: Started collecting data on outcomes-based assessment. Looking at tools in Canvass and figuring out how to convert assessment from Blackboard to Canvass.

Kelley: Wants to set up a meeting between OIT and the Council about discussing the capabilities in Canvass. There are some demonstration meetings to review things like visualizing assessment using Canvass. Kelley asked about response from faculty.

Joe: A lot of people have experience with Canvass and think it will do what we need it to do. One big issue with Blackboard assessment function was getting permissions that were appropriate. That is something that will need to be addressed with Canvass.

Kelley noted that issue has been discussed. There needs to be an option beyond Master and Local permission. Input from the campus community was that Canvass was the preferred choice. Bright Space was a close contender. A legitimate concern was transfer of courses, which is why some wanted to keep Blackboard. It would not have been seamless in Blackboard Ultra either. Manual changes would still have been required. Higher level of functionality in Canvass became a bigger issue. Canvass is more mobile-friendly. Many students have experience with Canvass. Vigo County is contracting with the company. Canvass is most widely used in Indiana. May facilitate smooth student transition.

Brian says that is encouraging since students do a lot of work on their phone, including writing papers. Those that have used Canvass really prefer it. Does it have an E-portfolio option?

Kelley thinks it does. Needs to check on the level of functionality. Canvass is working on a data analytics feature that is forthcoming. Not sure if it is included in our contract. Hopefully know more soon so faculty can start planning.

Shelley said that a committee member indicated there was no clear standout. That should be kept in mind if there are complaints later.

Kelley: Canvass was more popular with campus, Bright Space was more popular with the committee, and then Blackboard was third place. Having a proven product was an important factor.

Kelley also said that feedback from the review committee indicated they felt compelled to talk their interactions with the assessment council. People are able to talk about assessment, what it is and what it can be. Did not find another place in the report where a specific group session was recalled. Assessment is a gradual, evolving process and that is noted by the reviewers. Kelley indicated gratitude for the work already in place. 4B is the most cited for shortcomings of all the HLC Review criteria. Should hopefully hear from the HLC in the next month. Reviewer report came back very fast. Had an opportunity to check for factual errors, and that went back to the HLC. Also had an opportunity to indicate whether we agree with the findings of the review committee. Had one “Meets with Concerns,” which is being disputed. If it holds, we will create an action plan and then be subject for later review. HLC can change all the findings of the review committee. Hope the “Meet with Concerns” is remedied and no other issues are noted.

Elections: No quorum at the last meeting to hold elections. Hope to hold elections next time. Kelley will strongly encourage attendance. New reps will be joining the council, hopefully be next meeting. One member indicated support for current leadership team, and Laura Froelicher was nominated for the secretary position. May want to consider holding elections in the Spring in the future. Kelley has heard from people regarding sitting on the ad-hoc committees (assessment strategic planning and reviewing the annual assessment report approach), but need to see if more people need to be tapped. Kelley also urged people to suggest faculty members not serving on the Council who would be interested in serving on the annual report committee. Looking for committees of approximately 4-6 members. They will craft documents to bring to the council.

Review of the Minutes: Ellen amendment-Ardell Sanders’ name should be added along with Elonda Ervin.

Motion was made and seconded.

All members voted in favor.

IUPUI Virtual Assessment Institute is coming up. There are session tracks so you can attend sessions that build on each other. Hopefully there will be a chance to discuss what members got out of the conference.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 AM.