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Academic Assessment Committee  
February 5, 2002  
Minutes


Jim Yates opened the meeting asking for comments about the Department of History's Form C. It was noted that many of the comments that this committee recommended to the History Department in 2000 could still be made for the 2002 review. There is no data attached to this report. There was discussion about Goal 7. The committee believes this goal should not come under the assessment program since it deals with faculty. (Assessment Reports looks at the academic programs and student outcomes, not faculty.) The committee next reviewed the Political Science Department. It was agreed that the same comments for the History Department could be made for Political Science. Dr. Yates will invite Dr. Lumans to hear the committee's recommendations at the next meeting.

The committee requested that Ms. Bergstrom give Test #14 to 25% of the students who will be taking the General Education test in March. The remaining 75% of the students will take the CAAP test.

The committee plans on looking at the recommendations made by the Values Working Group to the Strategic Planning Committee. Dr. Cullen will send a copy of the completed Values Report to the AAC members. The input of the AAC members is requested ASAP, so a letter may be sent to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

Jim Yates will notify the committee about the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Bergstrom
Members present: J. Yates, K. Brewer, J. Cullen, S. Kapranidis, B. Premo-Hopkins

The Committee's guest today was Val Lumans. Jim Yates thanked Dr. Lumans for the excellent job on the Form C's for both History and Political Science departments. The Committee discussed with Dr. Lumans the possibility of using a standardized test for an assessment activity. Although the departments have looked into the possibility of standardized testing, they have concluded that the negatives would outweigh the positives. (Tendency to teach toward the test; not enough tests for scoring.) For Goal 7, the committee discussed their feelings that this goal seemed to be aimed more at the faculty and Program Review rather than enhancing the learning of students. Dr. Lumans said it would be "easy to delete."

The next item discussed by the Committee was the scoring of the CAAP tests. General Education is tested at USCA giving a standardized test to all incoming freshmen (with less than 30 hours) and all outgoing students (between 85-100 hours). The BASE had been used in the past. Starting in July 2000, ACT's CAAP (Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency) has been used. Since that time 1,477 students have taken the CAAP (1,113 freshmen and 364 seniors). However, the Assessment office has not developed a scoring tool. This situation hopefully will be corrected in the near future.

Form Cs from the School of Nursing, Associate Degree in Nursing and BSN were distributed. These reports will be discussed at the next Academic Assessment Meeting, Tuesday, March 5, at 12:30 p.m., H&SS, Rm. 201.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Bergstrom

The meeting opened with J. Yates discussing the Institutional Values Working Group Draft Report #5, dated January 8, 2002. The AAC is concerned that terms such as *embrace diversity* and *practice respectfulness* (see attached), may be incorporated into the new USCA mission statement. The committee members want to express their trepidation that such terms will be very difficult (if not impossible) to measure. The Academic Assessment Committee is charged with assessing the general education requirements of USC Aiken.

The Committee members next reviewed the School of Nursing's BSN and ADN assessment plans. J. Cullen stated that both plans would be changing completely next year due to new requirements.

The CAAP score results for USCA freshmen were distributed (copy attached). These scores are for the period July 2000 to August 2001.

J. Yates will let the members know of the next Assessment meeting. They are still waiting on Assessment Plans from Sociology and Psychology.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Bergstrom