## Academic Assessment Committee Minutes Index Spring 2008

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Academic Assessment Committee  
February 1, 2008  
Minutes

Present:  C. Eller, T. McGahee, L. Rhodes, W. Schweder, Yilian Zhang, L. Dawe, M. Bergstrom  
Guests:  Dr. Ed Callen

Dr. Callen discussed the Psychology Department’s assessment report. The report that the committee reviewed, had not been updated. Dr. Callen distributed a revised report. Dr. Callen explained new faculty have joined the Psychology Department, who felt the goals and objectives weren’t right, and proceeded to change the plan. The new plan is explained in the new report.

There was some discussion about the Major Field Test. The Psychology Department would like to increase motivation among their students to take the test and do well. However they’re not sure how to do this. Other units on campus tie it to a course. But the Psych Dept. does not have a capstone course.

Dr. Dawe noted that the strength of the Psych assessment report was that they had multiple assessment measures.

General Education goals and objectives need to be finalized with the Gen Ed committee and they need to begin assessing gen ed.

Dr. Rhodes asked if there was anything this committee could do to help the Psychology Department with their assessment. Because they don’t use writing as an assessment tool, Dr. Rhodes offered to help them with assessing their students’ writing portfolios. That could be a tool for measurement in their report.

Next week’s meeting, February 8, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. will have Dr. Kuck (Sociology) and Dr. Lumans (History/Political Science) discussing their assessment reports.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Bergstrom
Academic Assessment Committee  
February 8, 2008  
Minutes

Present:  C. Eller, T. McGahee, L. Rhodes, W. Schweder, Yilian Zhang, L. Dawe, M. Bergstrom  
Guests:  Dr. Doug Kuck, Dr. Val Lumans

Dr. Rhodes welcomed Dr. Doug Kuck to the meeting and asked him to discuss with the Committee members what the Department of Sociology has been doing with Assessment. Dr. Kuck explained his department uses the senior exit survey, portfolios and an oral component in the Research Methods course. The department is not assessing gen ed.

The department actually does not use the oral component. Dr. Kuck asked the Committee if it was alright to do away with this component and all agreed if it is not accomplishing what they hoped, they should eliminate it. Although the professors in the department believe it is important for their students to have oral skills, writing is more important. Dr. Rhodes offered to help them with using the Writing Portfolio to tease out information for their report.

Dr. Val Lumans was next welcomed to the meeting. Dr. Lumans was asked by Dr. Rhodes to share with the committee where his departments are with assessment.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Bergstrom
Dr. Ozment attended today’s meeting to discuss VSA – Voluntary System of Accountability. USC Aiken is now a member of VSA. As described on its website, VSA is designed to improve public understanding of how public colleges and universities operate.

One goal of VSA is to report student learning outcomes. There are three tests being recommended by VSA:

- Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) – two modules: critical thinking and writing essay.
- Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) – complete test including performance tasks, analytic writing tasks.
- Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress (MAPP) – two sub scores of the test: critical thinking and written communication.

Dr. Ozment is requesting the Academic Assessment Committee become familiar with VSA, and especially its initiative of general education testing. Members who served on the AAC will be asked to meet once or twice to look at these tests. They will, along with the current AAC members, make a recommendation to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness about what test our university should participate in.

Dr. Dawe is completing the College Portrait and it should be ready within the next few weeks.

Dr. Rhodes will send notes to previous AAC members asking them if they are interested in being on the subcommittee.

The next Academic Assessment Committee will be on Friday, May 9 at 11:00 a.m. The new members of the Committee who will be taking over Drs. Rhodes and Schweder’s positions will be invited to attend that meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Bergstrom