Academic Assessment Committee  
March 5, 2002  
Minutes


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
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

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
Academic Assessment Committee  
November 27, 2001  
Minutes

Members present: K. Brewer, J. Cullen, K. Wates, J. Yates, M. Bergstrom

Minutes from the October 16, 2001 meeting were approved.

Next semester, the Academic Assessment Committee will review Form Cs from the following academic units: History, Nursing (ADN and BSN), Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

The committee members gave Jim Yates their calendars and he will arrange a meeting schedule for next semester.

At the January meeting, the History and Political Science Form Cs will be reviewed.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Bergstrom

B. Premo-Hopkins announced to the Committee that Lovely Ulmer-Sottong has resigned from USCA. Her last day working for USCA will be December 7, 2001. Lovely has been offered a position at CHE.

J. Yates opened the meeting with a discussion about grading Test Booklet #14. The Committee hopes to start grading by next summer. They would like to grade 135 answer booklets (split stratified by freshmen/seniors), having a total of ten people grading - two per book. A third grader will be called in if there is significant disagreement. The person training the graders will also assemble the documents and make the final report.

The Committee hopes to look at the Mission Statement of the University to make sure the statements can be measured.

The next meeting of the Academic Assessment Committee will be Tuesday, November 27, 2001 at 1:40 p.m., H&SS 201.

At that meeting, the Committee will discuss the schedule for reviewing Form C from History, Nursing (ADN, BSN), Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Bergstrom

The chair of the AAC, J. Yates opened the meeting at approximately 1:45 pm. He asked the members the approximate time it took them to grade one Test #14. L. Ulmer-Sottong distributed a memo regarding Testing. Her proposal to the AAC is to use the CAAP test one year and the next year to use Question 14 and the ACT Entering Student Survey. (Memo attached.)

A discussion using Question 14 followed. M. Bergstrom will distribute copies of past meeting minutes to all members to give them a sense of the history of how Question 14 evolved. Also, the ACT Entering Student Survey will be sent to members.

The next meeting of the Academic Assessment Committee will be October 16, 2001 at 1:40 p.m., H&SS 201.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Bergstrom