AOC Summary of German and Spanish Assessment Review

DRAFT (4/12/10)

On March 22, 2010, the Assessment Oversight Committee (AOC) conducted an assessment review of the German and Spanish majors. Patrick Hagen presented the German report first. He identified the four goals and eight student learning outcomes for the German major. The program’s faculty members observe that most of the student learning outcomes are being met consistently, with the exception of student learning outcome #3, which concerns grammar skills. Hagen mentioned that students were not particularly strong in their knowledge of grammar, in part because the German classes the students took in high school did not emphasize grammar. In response, the German program is developing a separate grammar course that will be required of its majors. Hagen also observed that some students struggled with the oral proficiency interview. In response, the German program now encourages students to take this oral exam after they return from their study abroad. Finally, Hagen noted that students who plan to be German teachers should be required to take a new course offered by the English program: English 3610, Second Language Acquisition.

Although not a member of the Spanish program, Hagen presented their report as well. Like the German program, the Spanish program also observes student weakness in grammatical skills and so is considering the development of a new grammar course.

The AOC commends the German program for its fine assessment work. The AOC recommends that the Spanish program improve its assessment plan, using the German assessment plan as a model. The Spanish program should also consider community engagement opportunities for its majors. PACCE has funds available for Spanish majors who are interested in working with the growing Latino communities in the region. The use of community engagement may help the Spanish program identify their students’ strengths and weaknesses, and this may lead to further improvements in the program.