Minutes
Assessment Oversight Committee
December 8, 2008

Present: Carol Sue Butts, Dennis Ciesielski, Ben Collins, Shane Drefcinski, Marge Karsten, Evelyn Martens, P.B. Ravikumar, Matthew Roberts, Amanda Trewin.

Guests: Bob Conway, Duane Ford, Steve Kleisath

The meeting began at 4:15 p.m.

1. Approval of 11/24/08 minutes

2. Announcements
   • Provost Carol Sue Butts reminded the committee of the grand opening of the new engineering building on Saturday, December 13. Governor Doyle will be present.
   • Shane Drefcinski provided an update of the work of the General Education Task Force. The Task Force recently passed a motion that recommends the new general education model include a developmental program for underprepared students in areas including, but not limited to, English and mathematics. Provost Butts added that there is a system-wide group examining the trend toward the increasing number of students who need remedial work in mathematics.

3. Accounting assessment report.
   • Steve Kleisath, Chair of Business and Accounting, presented the Accounting assessment report. He highlighted: the high percentage of students who pass the C.P.A. exam on the first try (45-50%), the strong performance of students on the ETS exam (UWP students are in the 80th percentile), and the 100% placement rate.
   • Bob Conway highlighted the importance of the Accounting Advisory Board. In previous years, the board noted that Accounting students need to improve their writing skills. After making a concerted effort to include more writing assignments in their courses, especially in the Accounting capstone course, it appears that student writing has improved; the advisory board noticed that the writing skills of recent graduates is better.
   • Much of the subsequent discussion focused on how Accounting assesses writing. Several members of the AOC were concerned that Accounting relies too heavily on anecdotal evidence. They recommended that the Accounting program use better instruments to assess writing, such as a common rubric for evaluating student papers in the capstone course. Better assessment instruments would help Accounting identify with greater precision where student writing skills are strong or weak.
   • Other topics of discussion included the cost of accreditation, the value of the advisory board, and the lack of assessment of the Enhanced Instructor Initiative.

4. The AOC approved the summaries of the Prospective Student Services and Distance Learning assessment reports. The AOC also decided not to invite Julia Clark to a future meeting to show the DVD her group produced.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shane Drefcinski