Minutes
Assessment Oversight Committee
April 27, 2009

Present: Carol Sue Butts, Ben Collins, Shane Drefcinski, P.B. Ravikumar, Amanda Trewin, Evelyn Martens, Yuanyuan Hu, Dennis Cielselski

Guests: John Rink, Becky Peters

• Approval of 03/23/09 minutes – minutes were unanimously approved

Announcements

• To date, the Office of Sponsored Programs has received four assessment proposals and these will be available via drop box before the May 11 meeting. Deadline for submission is midnight tonight.

• Enrollment among Wisconsin students is up by about 100 students, though that number may drop before May 1, since that is the deadline to withdraw and receive refund of deposit. Dr. Butts and Dr. Markee will meet on Monday, May 4, to decide whether or not to cap freshman enrollment.

• Dr. Butts is interviewing for the position of interim Provost this week and hopes to make a decision by later next week.

Assessment Activities Presentations

1. Political Science Department – John Rink, professor of political science

Currently, the department measures progress towards four goals using ten assessment tools. In academic year 2006-07 the department noted that with regard to goals I and II, students’ grade point average in all sections of the introductory 1230 course was 2.08, which is unusually low and, in fact, among the lowest in the university. Using a Supplemental Instruction leader, Rink and others updated and reworked materials to try to help students make better connections between presentations, texts, class discussions, exams, and writing assignments. The overall GPA for these sections has increased to 2.29 in 2007-08 and 2.4 in fall 2008.

Rink also noted that the department’s efforts to offer students applied learning experiences such as mediation and mock trial are yielding good results and they are exploring ways to work with PAACE to offer more internship and community involvement experiences.

The committee members commended Rink on the department’s efforts to develop new strategies to improve student learning.

2. Services for Students with Disabilities – Rebecca Peters, director
SSD serves approximately 400 current and prospective students per year. The staff uses three tools to assess three outcomes and have found the face to face interview to be the most effective by far in gleaning information about how well they are meeting their goals. Overall SWDD is doing very well in helping students in their interactions with faculty and staff, understand their rights and responsibilities, and understand the processes and procedures to obtain accommodations. Some changes they have made as a result of assessment over the years include redesigning the website and materials they send to prospective students, improving notetaker services and improving the way they explain to students how to request accommodations from faculty.

The committee members commended Peters on the work SSWD is doing and their efforts to assess and make changes based on assessment.

- Drefcinski noted that at the next meeting the members will hear from International Studies the Pre-college program.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.