Minutes
Assessment Oversight Committee
Feb 22, 2010

Present: Shane Drefcinski, Duane Ford, P.B. Ravikumar, Matthew Roberts, Amanda Tucker

Guests: David Rowley

1. Members and guests were introduced. Minutes of the Feb 8, 2010 meeting passed unanimously.

2. Drefcinski made two announcements:
   a. UWP administers the Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress (MAPP) test to 1st year and senior students. The name is now changed to ETS Proficiency Profile Overview. The test is a voluntary system of accountability that satisfies UW-System requirements. About 200 senior students will have to take the test very soon for which a web-based registration system is being developed. E-Mail invitations will be sent out under the Chancellor’s signature. If enough students do not sign up in 8 time slots next week, time will be extended. Drefcinski will provide results of the test to AOC when it becomes available.
   b. Feedback has been sent to Faculty Senate about the Faculty Governance and Committee Self-Assessment.

3. David Rowley distributed documentation on UWP Social Sciences Comprehensive Major with an Emphasis in History Annual Program Assessment. Major points addressed were as follows:
   a. The document outlined the Mission and Purpose, Goals and Objectives, Assessment Tools, and the Assessment Plan. Additional documentation included the 60 credit curriculum course list and Praxis II results from September to March, 2009.
   b. The primary assessment tool at present is the Praxis II Social Sciences Examination administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS, Princeton, NJ).
   c. Rowley pointed to the issue of social science major being not a discipline in itself but a collection of disciplines instead. This results in having no separate social science standards for assessment.
   d. In response to a question from Drefcinski, Rowley mentioned that a vast majority of social science majors are education majors.
   e. Since the previous assessment of education major, emphasis area in social science major has been limited to history instead of several emphasis areas.
   f. Rowley mentioned that about fifty percent of social science faculty members have education majors with social science minor.
   g. In response to a query from Ravikumar, Rowley mentioned that it takes about five years to obtain both the education and social science major.
   h. Results of the Praxis II-2009 test were discussed next. Rowley noted that the test results data as made available does not help identify what will make things improve. Shane responded that the results such as scores, pass, or not passed
do provide some information about the areas to improve but acknowledged that more data was needed. Tucker suggested administering a survey to students who took the Praxis II test asking them to identify/describe areas in which they weak/strong etc. Rowley felt that the idea was a very good one and will look into it further.

i. Ford suggested that education major program develop assessment plans that specifically integrated social science content without having additional or separate plans. Drefcinski supported this idea by suggesting that education program make some artifacts in the assessment portfolio to address social science explicitly.

j. Drefcinski also suggested that general education requirements for Social Science could help in developing the assessment plans for social science major further.

k. Ravikumar suggested that analyzing sample Praxis II questions (if available) in conjunction with results from student survey suggested earlier by Tucker could effectively help identify what and how to improve. This can be particularly pertinent because all prospective social science teachers must take the Praxis II Social Sciences Examination before they can be licensed to teach.

l. In response to a question from Ford, Rowley recognized both students with a history major plus social science minor and education major plus social science major.

4. Following minor changes, the draft 2010-2011 Assessment Activity Fund Proposal Guidelines generated by AOC were approved unanimously for distribution to faculty and staff through a motion by Ravikumar that was seconded by Roberts.

5. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P.B. Ravikumar