Minutes
Assessment Oversight Committee
Apr 12, 2010

Present: Shane Drefcinski, Duane Ford, Dennis Ciesielski, Margaret Karsten, P.B. Ravikumar, Matthew Roberts

Guests: Dan Fairchild (Art), Carl Allsup and Terri Burns (Ethnic Studies)

1. Members and guests were introduced. Minutes of the March 22, 2010 meeting was approved unanimously.
2. There were no announcements.
3. In conjunction with the document “Department of Performing and Visual Arts: Art Program Assessment Summary” made available to committee, the following points were addressed during the meeting:
   a. Assessment in the art program is performance based and thus students must demonstrate that they can put into practice what they learn.
   b. With time, resources, and curriculum revisions, the art program aims to achieve full accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). As of now, the program meets the standards of the Higher Learning Commission, National Council for the Accreditation of Teachers, and the Wisconsin Department of Education.
   c. Information from many sources is used in assessment and follow-up decisions. Examples include quality of written examinations, written papers, studio art projects, feedback responses from public art displays, feedback from industry internship and co-op experiences, and data from the Praxis II content in art for Art Education majors.
   d. Assessment evaluations point to students’ success in most areas of the program, Praxis II exams, and capstone experiences.
   e. Areas requiring curriculum revision or expansion that have been identified include jewelry and crafts, metals, sculpture, ceramics, graphic design, and practicum in non-teaching programs.
   f. Follow-up changes to address the areas requiring improvements are challenging due to the building constraints and financial resources. Building renovations and foundation donations are helping to address some of the areas. New studio space and equipment to improve programs in metals, sculpture, ceramics, and graphic design are now being realized. Started in spring of 2009, a pilot program to expand studio work into selected art survey classes is ongoing.
   g. Fairchild drew particular attention to the positive development of a culture of unified on-going assessment in the program.
   h. In response to a question from Karsten, Fairchild explained that NASAD does not dictate credit count but emphasized content. Fairchild added that compared to many schools, UW-Platteville has a good general education requirement for the art program majors.
i. Fairchild answered in the affirmative to Ford’s question as to whether the assessment tools are individual student assessments. Artistic side information is assessed subjectively.

j. Shane asked to update information, if any, on the web about the art program assessment.

4. Carl Allsup and Terri Burns distributed documents regarding the Ethnic Studies Program assessment. The following were the main points addressed during the meeting:
   a. Assessment instruments have been used for about ten years for the ethnic studies program. There are three major components: a pre and post test to measure knowledge of facts, ideas (theory) and analysis; weekly discussions with the instructor; and discussion and writing assignments.
   b. Grades reflect more of the response to issues rather than just content.
   c. Following assessment, all courses are being re-examined for improvements.
   d. Pre and post tests are administered at the beginning and end of each semester. The pre and post test results have been positive in all classes. Within the general trend of improving positive results, Allsup and Burns drew attention to higher positive responses when more students of color are in the classes.
   e. Allsup acknowledged Ford’s suggestion that surveys be automated online as a good idea that will be looked into.

5. Draft AOC Summary of German and Spanish Assessment Review prepared by Drefcinski were approved unanimously following some additions to the document.

6. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P.B. Ravikumar