Minutes
Assessment Oversight Committee
September 13, 2010

Present: Shane Drefcinski, Mittie Nimocks, Dominic Barraclough, Thomas Hunt, P.B. Ravikumar, Amanda Tucker

Guest: George Smith

1. Members and guest were introduced. Minutes of the May 10, 2010 meeting was approved.

2. Shane Drefcinski was re-elected unanimously as Chair of the Assessment Oversight Committee for the 2010-11 year. Secretary duties will be performed on a rotating basis by AOC members.

3. George Smith gave a presentation on the outcomes realized through the Assessment Activity Fund (AAF) grant he received for working on “Improving Classroom Performance: An SoTL project”. Smith also provided the committee with PowerPoint handouts and a copy of the report. Major points addressed during the presentation were:
   a. The AAF proposal was developed as a result of initial class projects on public speaking.
   b. Students’ (in Speech 1010/Public Speaking class) observation in class of instructors’ behavior on several variables in the areas of visual support, rhetorical or communication style, and nonverbal communication, behavior, and mannerisms were collected and analyzed. Identity of instructors and students has been kept anonymous.
   c. Results show that there is scope for significant improvement by instructors in all areas.
   d. Workshops to help improve the performance have been and will be offered by the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC).
   e. As the 1010 course is taken primarily by students in their first or second year of college, the results are biased towards that demographic. Another obvious bias is that the instructors who were observed were also more of those who taught early level courses.
   f. In response to a question by Hart, Smith replied that only head count statistics have been tallied and provided as results. Hart followed up with a comment that it may be interesting to compare the results with similar surveys at other campuses with different demographics.
   g. In response to a question from Barraclough as to why faculty themselves could not administer the survey questionnaire, Smith replied that students are concerned about potential negative possibilities if the instructor got to know their identity.

4. Drefcinski summarized the membership, duties and purpose of AOC, 2010/2011 meetings dates, review schedule and questions for the benefit of both new and continuing members. Drefcinski drew attention to the fact that both the AOC and the APC (Academic Planning Council) provide feedback on a staggered basis on assessment to various programs, majors, and services. Drefcinski also mentioned that he plans on putting an agenda item for AOC to explore if better methods are available for liberal arts assessment during to its inherent difficult nature to assess.
5. There were no announcements from the Provost.

6. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P.B. Ravikumar