Minutes  
Assessment Oversight Committee  
September 12, 2011  

Present: Dave Boyles, Terri Burns, Shane Drefcinski, Art Ranney, Karen Gagne  

The meeting began at approximately 4:00.  

1. Introductions were made. The Committee this year consists of Shane Drefcinski, Arthur Ranney, David Boyles, Karen Gagne, Amanda Tucker, Mark Zidon, Steve Yunk and Hong Teng.  

2. Selection of Chair: Drefcinski and Recording Secretary (for this meeting): Boyles  

3. Minutes from the May 9 meeting were approved. During the discussion, questions about background and/or new information arose.  
   • Announcement 2a) Campus Climate Survey: there seems to be no solid information at this time. The AOC will keep searching for results of this university-wide assessment.  
   • Announcement 2c) General Education Task Force: nothing to report since the APC decided in May that this needed to be put off.  

   • New Program Name: Women’s and Gender Studies. Adding Gender Studies to the name is in keeping with initiatives such as the new Gay Studies Certificate.  
   • Because of the unfinished work of the GETF, Terri deferred on submitting an assessment report: “The goals for our minor and the assessment tools for our four leaning outcomes remain unchanged since the update we submitted in January 2010. However, since we are now the Women’s and Gender Studies Program but the minor is still titled “Women's Studies,” and since we are one step away from having a minor in Gay Studies, I anticipate that these learning outcomes and tools will be revisited as soon as the university decides whether or not to adopt the new general education plan.”  
   • One point discussed was assessment via threshold concepts: “particular paradigms of thought—such as viewing gender as a socially constructed category which one both is influenced by and helps create — which, when understood, open up venues of understanding, analysis, social action and artistic expression that would not be available to the student prior to understanding the concept... I am pleased to report that our method of assessment via a combination of threshold concepts and content areas is the preferred method in the field.”  
   • The most discussion was provoked by: On July 1, 2011, we moved under administrative control of the Office of the Provost though our curriculum is still part of the College of LAE. The administrative shift of our program should make it much easier to staff courses and locate rooms.... In addition, the members of the WGSP may soon begin discussion of whether or not they want to be part of a university-wide council or stay within the governance structure of the College of LAE.  

5. There were no other items discussed.  

The meeting adjourned at 5:00.