Minutes
Assessment Oversight Committee
September 26, 2011
Recorded by Karen Gagne

Present: Dave Boyles, Shane Drefcinski, Liz Gates, Steve Yunck, Dominic Barraclough, Amanda Tucker, Karen Gagne

Absent: Art Ranney, Hong Teng, Mark Zidon

The meeting began at approximately 4:00pm.

Business

Introductions were made.

Minutes from September 12th were discussed and approved with one correction: Laura Beadling is the current chair of Women and Gender Studies Program.

Psychology Report—presented by Liz Gates

Liz reported on the assessment of the Psychology Program and the data that the department collected over 3 years. Among the things discussed were some things that they learned as a result of the assessment. These are some of the things that she discussed:

a. Students were frustrated regarding unavailability of upper level courses, especially Behavioral Research I and II. Not enough faculty to offer our upper level behavioral research classes frequently enough. Need to offer two sections of the course each semester, but presently they were only offering two sections of the course every fourth semester. At present, we are overloading the course in attempt to meet student demand. There are currently three students who will not be able to complete their psychology major within four years because they have been unable to get into Behavioral Research I and II.

b. Students reported confusion regarding jobs they can obtain with only a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

c. While many students report dissatisfaction with the job market, several graduating seniors were able to obtain good paying jobs without a graduate degree.

d. Graduate schools in counseling and social work have heightened expectations regarding students’ completion of volunteering, internships, and/or human services related work experience.

They are going to shift around the schedule so that more academic staff can teach the lower level courses. This would free up time for qualified faculty to teach the Behavioral Research course (which is a full year commitment).
The department will change the GPA requirement for psychology majors (which is currently going to the Curriculum Committee). It is proposed that students have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA after the completion of 45 credits to declare a psychology major. This would help to manage enrollment growth and decrease demand for upper level courses. Professors teaching these courses report increase frustration with academic abilities of students completing the courses.

Other implementations included a Tri-State Undergraduate Psychology Conference Panel, an Advisory Group, a revision of the Careers in Counseling and Human Services course, the addition of a Substance Abuse Counseling emphasis, and increased “volunteer” hours as part of the service learning component of the major.

Some questions posed to Liz included:

Shane: How large is the group of majors? (about 157; About 45-50 grads per year)

Steve: Regarding the GPA, does C- count? (Yes)

Dave: Do Students in focus groups say what the problem is regarding the unavailability of the behavior class? (The course is a 2-semester commitment.)

Steve: How do grads demonstrate competency in computer technology? (Stats, PowerPoint, etc)

Dominic: Is there a national standard to measure assessment in Psychology? (Not yet.)

Dominic: Do you have an ongoing advisory group? (Yes, our current advisory group serves as this as well)

**Discussion of AOC Summary of Women and Gender Studies Report**

Shane gave a summary of the report submitted by Teri Burns and asked if we were satisfied with his summary. The committee approved the summary. There was a brief question regarding the issuing of a certificate rather than a minor and the difference in credits earned.

Shane raised the issue of possibly doing an assessment of general educations courses in Natural Science and Social Science and wondered if it would be a worthwhile endeavor by the group. The overall feeling of the group is that it would not be time well spent.

This concluded our meeting.