Assessment Oversight Committee
4:00 p.m., 1510 Ullsvik Hall
March 12, 2012

Present: Dave Boyles (minute-taker), Shane Drefcinski (Chair), Karen Gagne, Art Ranney, Amanda Tucker, Steve Yunck
Guests: Evelyn Martens, Russ Brickey from the Writing Center

I. The Minutes from the Feb. 27 meeting were approved (with the clarified announcement that the proposed new General Education plan had been approved by the UUCC).

II. Announcements
1) Shane announced that the new General Education plan is on the agenda of the next Faculty Senate meeting.
2) Art announced that the Improvement of Learning Committee has deferred some of its CIF money for a second round of CIF grants this semester, focusing on developing or revising courses to meet Writing Emphasis requirements. The ILC also wants to solicit CIF grants in fall 2012, so that WE course development is accelerated.

III. Writing Center Assessment Report
1) Assessment Tools
   a. Campus Writing Center Session Survey (Spring 2011)
      i. Strategies: 36% too general to categorize, the rest mentioned grammar, punctuation, mechanics 19%, organization 14%, “process” issues 13%, genre 10%, or sources 7%.
   b. Confidential feedback from student writers
   c. Tutor observation (taping and evaluation)
   d. Focus groups with students (every 4-5 years, last in 2008).
2) Closing the Loop — recommendations
   a. More time and money for training tutors
   b. Continue faculty outreach
   c. Do a better job of educating students and faculty about the WC
3) Conclusions
   a. The surveys demonstrate a high level of student satisfaction with the WC.
   b. A clear answer to half of the mission statement (“help students become more confident writers”): over 96% of students report feeling more confident after visiting the WC. What about the other half (“…more effective writers”)?
   c. Do a better job of educating students and faculty about the WC
4) Writing Partners: a $53,000 UW-System “Supporting the Growth Agenda” grant, designed to provide extra support for students in English 10. Of the 38 students initially enrolled, 35 completed the program, and 34 were retained to the second semester.

IV. Focus for Assessment Activity Fund grants
   The solicitation for 2012–13 AAF grant proposals will be sent out soon. The decision was made to emphasize proposals addressing deficiencies highlighted by the last NSSE assessment.