Improvement of Learning Committee
Minutes of Tuesday, October 4, 2005

Present: Carol Sue Butts (Provost), Tom LoGuidice (chair), Ben Collins, Mu-Ling Chang, Kevin Haertzen, Osama Jadaan, Stan Lukowski, Martha Drummond, Esther Ofulue, Nader Safari-Shad, George Smith
Missing: Karen Allen, Dick Klawiter, Louis Nzegwu, Kristopher Wright
Visitor: Rich Egley (Student Affairs)

LoGuidice convened the meeting at 4:07 p.m. in 320 Brigham.

1. LoGuidice circulated a sign-up sheet for IOL subcommittees, suggesting that members volunteer for at least two subcommittees in order to divide the workload over the school year.

2. Egley distributed data from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and briefly explained the methodology and classification of data: UWP, UW System schools, similar cluster institutions, and overall national database. Means for all survey items were compared, with statistically significant differences reflected with asterisks to show the level of significance (one asterisk showing statistical significance at the .05 level, three asterisks showing statistical significance at the .001 level—i.e., most significant differences).

Egley noted the gender difference between UWP composition (roughly two-thirds male and one-third female) and the actual number of UWP survey respondents (48% male, 52% female among freshman participants; 57% male, 43% female among seniors). Smith suggested that discrepancies in gender distribution of participants would skew the data, and that adjustments might be needed to fine-tune our analysis.

Butts suggested that our most likely base for comparing UWP data would be with the UW System data. Given the perspective of the Higher Learning Commission, comparisons with in-state campuses would be the best standard for our analysis. Butts also noted that several HLC criterion groups would be very interested in our findings.

Smith and Haertzen agreed to analyze the data, identifying key strengths and areas for potential improvement (based on levels of significance, compared to UW institutions). IOL will take action on these findings at its February 2006 meeting. Smith suggested that the strengths and areas for improvement could be tailored for presentation to specific administrative, academic, or governance groups on campus—similar to handling of ACT-CAAP data several years ago.

LoGuidice distributed OPID Brochures

The meeting adjourned at 4:45.
Respectfully submitted,
George E. Smith
Secretary du jour