On September 12, 2011, the Assessment Oversight Committee (AOC) conducted an assessment review of the Women’s and Gender Studies program. Dr. Terri Burns presented the report. She noted that the goals and student learning outcomes remain the same since previous reports, but some of the assessment tools have changed. Instead of employing pre-course and post-course exams, the current focus is on assessing threshold concepts, such as viewing gender as a socially constructed category which one both is influenced by and helps create. The threshold concepts are introduced in WOMSTD 1130, Introduction to Women’s Studies, and explicitly linked to the general education outcomes for gender studies. Then the concepts are developed in subsequent courses and demonstrated in either a Cooperative Education project or in an Independent Study project as a capstone course.

Much of the discussion centered around the recent decision to move the Women’s and Gender Studies program out of the College of LA&E and directly under the Office of the Provost.

The AOC’s three primary questions were addressed and the committee was satisfied with the current efforts and plans for continued assessment. The Committee requested a copy of the most recent assessment plan, and Dr. Burns complied.