

LAC Minutes (Approved)

Friday, 01/17/2014, CLIMB

Chat time: 12:55-1:15

Meeting: 1:30-2:40

Subcommittee Work Time: 2:40-3:30

Attendance:

Chris Brooks	X	Gabe Hunter-Bernstein	X	Davina Ramirez	X
Kendra Cawley	X	Jamee Kristen		Linda Reisser	X
Sandie Curren	X	Katie Leonard-Floyd	X	Julie Romey	X
Sally Earll		Priscilla Loanzon	X	Lisa Rosenthal	X
<i>Shirlee Geiger * LAC Chair Emeritus</i>	X	Christine Manning	X	Julianne Sandlin	X
<i>Sylvia Gray * LAC Chair Emeritus</i>		Michele Marden (Chair)	X	Torie Scott	X
Allison Gross	X	Laura Massey		Doug Smith	X
Sherie Guess		Scott McBeth	X	Susan Wilson (Recorder)	X
Anne Haberkern	X	Linda Paulson	X	Stephanie Yurasits	
Wayne Hooke (Vice-Chair)	X	Amara Perez	X		

Guests: Marc Goodman (CIS) and Andy Hilt (Geology/Gen Science)

CHAT

Priscilla Loanzon hosted this month's chat, "A Flexible Framework for Academic Assessment," based on a presentation by Professor Mosen Auryan, of Hunter College, at the April 2013 ANNY Conference (Assessment Network of New York). She describes her topic as a "no-nonsense" approach to improve program- and course-level outcomes.

BUSINESS UPDATES

Intros

The committee welcomed guests Andy and Marc and new members: Amara, Chris, Davina, and Julianne. Each attendee introduced him/herself and, at Michele's prompt, identified the most unusual or memorable pet they ever had.

Timekeeper

Vice-chair Wayne Hooke served as voluntary timekeeper.

November Meeting Minutes

The minutes from November 22 were approved with a correction to the fourth bullet under the Completion Investment Council section. Since the term 'culture of evidence' is unfamiliar to some, the wording was changed from "...establishing a culture of evidence and making data-informed decisions..." to "...establishing a culture of making evidence- and data-informed decisions..."

Behavior Agreement

As is standard when new participants are present, Michele explained the group's Behavior Agreement. Laminated versions of the agreement were distributed for reference. The LAC Membership Subcommittee is planning an orientation for new members.

Assessment Plans Incoming

January 17 was the due date for SACs to submit their annual and multi-year plans for assessment. Susan said one or both plans had been received from 11 of 51 CTE and 15 of 37 LDC SACs so far.

Completion Investment Council (CIC)

Former LAC chair Shirlee Geiger gave a first-hand summary of the most recent CIC meeting. She said the council is working on recommendations to make to the president's cabinet. It's not like a wish list of "things that would be nice to have," but a solid set for the strategic planning process. To that end, four CIC subcommittees have been formed:

- Staff & Professional Development – Looking at ways to support faculty activities and initiatives that translate into curriculum or delivery innovations designed to make students more successful.
- Communication and Collaboration – Improving and connecting the channels of communication at PCC. Is it time for an internal communications officer? That's one of the ideas under consideration by this group, led by Chris Chairsell.
- Pathways - Mapping pathways and identifying detours that keep students from moving toward completion. The Panther Path, of course, is the overarching theme of the CIC (and for Student Services). It dovetails with the work of the next committee:
- Developmental Education – Giving attention to academic preparedness and the degree to which low literacy in math/reading/writing affects performance. Many students enter classes underprepared and have difficulty passing them and progressing to higher levels.

Linda Reisser, also on the CIC, commented about the copious amounts of data the group has analyzed--which will aid in making the 'evidence- and data-informed decisions' noted earlier.

Upcoming Meetings

The chair reminded the group that the next two LAC meetings occur February 21 and March 14. The LAC website has been updated to reflect these dates and others that occur in the spring.

Future Chats

Each month's pre-meeting chat is a time for informal sharing of information or insights that might come from conferences or themes arising in the classroom. Priscilla has presented twice this year with material she gleaned at the ANNY conference, and she gamely volunteered to preside over the February chat if no one else can. Allison has an idea for the March chat, and Scott suggested the upcoming AAC&U conference might provide items worthy of a spring chat.

January 31 Dean Shirley Anderson Conference

Allison plugged a morning session on assessment to be presented by the Comp/Lit SAC at the Anderson Conference. Gabe said it's easy to sign up at MyPCC. The Spotlight channel, front and center on the Faculty tab, is devoted to the conference and space is still available.

LAC DISCUSSION

Subcommittee Reports

- LAC/EAC Phase II - In Sally Earll's absence, Michele provided a report on this carryover committee--a joint effort between the LAC and the EAC. They met December 12 to continue the discussion on course level outcomes pursuant to NWCCU's Standard 4.A.3. Course-level assessment is particularly problematic because current outcomes are not always measurable. The committee is looking at curriculum guidelines for the wording for course-level outcomes to see what needs to shift. Without losing anything, how could they be more easily measured? For those not already assigned to a subcommittee who like to analyze things from every angle, Gabe

suggested this as a great committee to join. The good news is that no results are expected before the upcoming accreditation; Chris Chairsell has said the committee can take a good long look and the roll out will be gradual. The outcomes are in the CCOGs and thought must be given as to how they will be assessed. Also, there has to be a way to field grading issues. What constitutes passing? What if a student achieves some course outcomes but not others, do they still pass the class? Does it matter what the subject/course is? What about this new concept of contextualizing the curriculum? This Task Force will be in conversation with the EAC's Curriculum Subcommittee.

- Internal Review – Wayne Hooke said this group is evaluating *how we're assessing*, with a commitment to quality assessment. He mentioned the work coming out of the New Leadership Alliance, a group of leaders (external) who don't seem to be faculty. He says what they propose is pretty consistent with what we are doing at PCC. Quantifying our assessment results, and figuring out how to do it, is something the committee is considering. Wayne thinks the only way to get there is through meta-analysis, but he's not an expert on the technique.
- Membership - Linda Paulson provided an update on LAC membership. The subcommittee is looking at doing two recruitments per year to stave off the attrition that has occurred in the past and was particularly high from spring 2013 to fall 2014. We have 21 voting members now and 28 altogether. More members from Rock Creek are needed. A related issue is the definition of an LAC member that appears in the bylaws. It currently says a voting faculty member must be teaching two credit classes a year. What happens when classes are cancelled? Another item in the planning stage is an orientation for new members.
- Templates/Rubrics - Katie and her team are gathering feedback on the help guides and new assessment plan templates in place this year. Anyone with direct or indirect feedback is urged to pass it along to Katie. Her group will also be developing a rubric to evaluate the End-of-Year Assessment Reports due in June.
- Funding - Kendra said this committee had to reframe the budget recently to accommodate benefits tied to hourly wages for assessment-related projects. The LAC budget is managed by Kendra's office and basically covers summer peer review, coaching stipends, and conferences. An earlier decision was made to forego SAC grants this year in order to have more money for coaches. Release time for chairs comes out of Chris Chairsell's budget. After considering year-to-date expenditures and encumbrances, the subcommittee determined seven folks can attend the AACU conference in late February/early March, with enough funds left over to send the LAC chair and vice chair to another conference later in the year.

Subcommittee Work Session

For the rest of meeting (2:40 on), members dispersed into their subcommittees for a work session. Those not yet part of a group were encouraged to sit in on those of interest.

Action Items (for Chair or designee)

- Correct 11/22 minutes as discussed, and post
- Order more copies of the LAC Bylaws for new members
- Confirm Priscilla for February chat