

Learning Assessment Council Minutes – 2/24/2017

Cascade Campus, CH 301

Attending: Chris Brooks, Wayne Hooke, Jessica Johnson, Nora Stevens, Marc Goodman, Tom Songer, Torie Scott, Ralf Youtz, Hannah Love, Davina Ramirez, Catherine Thomas.

Guests also in attendance: Matt Levy, John Briggs.

- Greetings
  - o Welcome to visitors: John Briggs (Biology, Rock Creek) & Matt Levy (Writing, Rock Creek).
- Behavior agreement / parking lot idea
  - o If we have a topic that veers onto an important tangent, we “park” it and return at the end of the meeting or at a subsequent meeting.
- Updates
  - o Outreach: Chris will send more emails to the college. Tom suggested a “What is Assessment?” outreach video for SACs to watch as part of outreach. The LAC subcommittee could pursue this with the appropriate Instructional Support staff on campus, and there may be existing videos to choose from. Torie Scott added that the library frequently makes instructional videos and could help out.
  - o Templates: Ralf reported that the report template has been reorganized and simplified, and is in the comment process currently.
- Bylaws revision
  - o Some small revisions offered by members. One major change was highlighted: requiring committee members to also serve on a subcommittee. There were also clarifications around faculty as the only voting members.
- Update from outcomes forums, implications for us
  - o Wayne & Torie attended and reported on their experiences. There was some general discussion about the impact of the forums and the ongoing GenEd conversations. Torie noted that it was successful but clearly just the first stage of an interactive process. Some discussion around what kind of impact or changes the process is likely to bring about – Wayne and Chris indicated that concrete changes are unlikely in the short term, but at the very least clear options will be available should our accreditors require them (e.g. more easily assessable outcomes, summative assessment data from GenEd classes, etc.) Davina added that there remains the fear that assessment might be used to cut classes and jobs among faculty – she had the sense that the session helped calm some of those fears, but it’s something we always bear in mind with these discussions and in outreach in general.
- The EAC and LAC: going forward
  - o Open question: Why is the LAC not part of the EAC? There is no concrete proposal to join the EAC, but is it worth bringing up as a possibility?

- One reason has to do with workflow; we'd be a standing committee and any decisions would be referred to the EAC and then on to the president. We're more attached to Academic Affairs and benefit from having a focused purview on one specific topic – assessment – which is a hard-and-fast accreditation requirement.
- There was discussion about whether being part of the EAC would make the work of LAC more visible and connected to faculty. Can LAC do better outreach and raise visibility without joining EAC? Some of this will happen through ongoing outreach work as mentioned earlier.
- The EAC – LAC task force already serves as the body in which information is shared, but the disadvantage to the LAC is that most of its members are not part of that task force and thus rely on reports from those who are.
- Parking Lot Ideas
  - Evidence-based changes: the bylaws speak to a culture of learning at the college that relies on evidence, but Tom expressed concern that we just don't have that and it's not clear how to achieve it. Wayne noted that this is a perennial issue for the committee. Tabled till next meeting.
  - Outcomes in CCOGs/Classes themselves: Ralf noted that until outcomes are embedded in the CCOGs and, hence, classes themselves, there is a major disjuncture between the assessment of the core outcomes and what goes on in most classes. Tabled till next meeting.
- Meeting adjourned.

Susan Wilson unavailable for meeting, minutes recorded by Hannah Love