SOU Academic Senate

April 19, 2013

Information Item

Embedded Assessment for Graduating Seniors

The Assessment Committee with the strong support of the Provost’s office is recommending an assessment of institutional foundational goals (Communicate effectively, Collaborate with others, Use critical and creative thinking, and Access and Use information resources) using work submitted by all graduating seniors. This would be used in lieu of the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA). The committee envisions developing a database of student work using moodle’s portfolio capabilities. Initially the data would include senior capstone papers, and later could include University Seminar final papers and assignments from the 300 level writing courses as we seek to track student achievement over their time at SOU. All individual student information would be strictly private. The CLA instead of annually would be administered every third year as an external standardization. The committee intends to draw random samples of student writing and use SOU’s established rubrics for the assessment of foundational goals. The committee would report summary results to the Senate as it completes its work.

The use of embedded assessments would solve several problems that have been associated with using the CLA and other assessments that do not use actual student work samples. Truly random samples would be easy to generate since all seniors would have submitted a paper. In addition in-house assessment expertise would be developed.

The assessment committee would like to test this process this spring. We would ask that programs submit their students’ capstone papers to an assessment moodle site. The committee could then test its assessment rubrics and processes.