# Assessment Committee Meeting – Minutes

April 25, 2014 | 11:00 – 12:10 pm |Library 329

Attendees: Jim Hatton, Kristin Nagy Catz, Craig Stillwell, Lee Ayres, Jamie Vener, Dorothy Ormes, , Hart Wilson, Sue Walsh, Laura Young

1. There is a new advising committee forming. Jim contacted Lisa Gracia Hansen about including Learning outcomes as part of advising. It will be done. Lee who is co-chair informed us that the point of view that advisors will take is one of how to get a liberal education. Kristin is on the data and research subcommittee so between them we should have good information and input.
2. We discussed our trial evaluations of this year’s program reviews.
   * It seemed harder this year and we spent the time clarify questions.
   * We will change the form to have a yes and no button for TracDat evidence.
   * We agreed that if the report asserted that they have evidence but it was not to be found on TracDat, we would say that the program meets the requirement partially but give it a no for TracDat evidence.
   * Committee members where reminded to look for exemplary programs and processes.
   * We will try to make the report guidelines even easier to use next time.
   * Clarifications for particular elements
     + IC Program outcomes align with University Studies outcomes – Look in the related themes and objectives tab in TracDat.
     + IIA Each program outcome has a direct assessment – We are looking for outcomes with direct assessment which means student work as evidence – not class grades, or faculty opinion, or even student opinion. We would like to see at least one such outcome per program.
     + IVB Initiatives based on assessment data improve achievement – Here we look in the results section. There should be links to documents. We want to see “initiatives” based on data and some evidence that the potential improvements will be measured.
   * We have paired up now to do the team reports. Assignments can be found on the moodle site under the topic Program Review Materials – Sign-Up to Review Programs. After the team agrees on their evaluation, their assessment should be entered on the Team Review Survey. Don’t forget to compare the team’s evaluation with the program’s self-evaluation. Please get the evaluations done by next meeting May 9.
3. We did not get to the rest of the agenda but a discussion ensued about the future of assessment here at SOU. This will be a topic on our next agendas. We think we have reached a point where the culture of assessment as begun to pervade the campus. Our president will be including it in a Monday message and the non-academic side will be assessing themselves. We have an opportunity with the new director structure to begin a dialogue among ourselves with new leadership and organization structure. We would suggest a theme for next year: Refocusing on teaching (learning?) and student success. We need to be thinking about an assessment agenda for next year and hopefully interact with the directors this summer to plan events that will get us there. Our final report to the senate should include our plans for next year.