

Meeting Minutes
GENERAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT TASK FORCE

Tuesday, August 12, 2008, 10:00 AM, MCCS 443

Present: Youlanda Henry (Co-Chair), Nancy Yurko (Co-Chair), Patricia Bell, Sheri Brown, Lynne Crosby, Patty Lee, Bill Meisel, Joel Rappoport, Wayne Singletary, Charles Smires, Karen Stearns, ChrisTwiggs

Introductions

- Task Force members were introduced and new members were welcomed.

Summer Developments

- Youlanda attended meetings at DBCC sponsored by Live Text in which there were discussions about general education outcome definitions and assessment rubrics. Rubrics were developed in the areas of Writing, Speech, Listening, and Reading for use in the Live Text assessment product. These rubrics were more general than the ones that we developed, and the workshop goals did not necessarily align with what we want to do as an institution. Though the workshop was somewhat limited in value, it was a good opportunity for Youlanda to learn about Live Text. Live Text costs \$89 per student for a basic version and \$159 per student for a more deluxe version. It is not known if this charge is per year or if it covers the student's entire college experience. Youlanda will follow up to gather this information. DBCC is going to pilot Live Text this fall, and it is already in use by other colleges.
- During May, Nancy and a group of six faculty members representing four campuses and multiple disciplines attended AAC&U in Minnesota. See Attachment A for a summary of the team's final report from the institute. The team was impressed with the sessions they attended and saw some great examples of ePortfolios. It was noted that it would be critical to get faculty buy-in when using ePortfolios and that students would need to be educated in using them so as not to require too much faculty time. An example was presented where students began their ePortfolio in a first-year experience class with the help of student lab assistants.
- The team also reported that they were exposed to a lot of resources for creating rubrics. It was suggested that we look at the rubrics that AAC&U is developing as we create the rubrics for the additional four areas.
- While on their trip, the team also reviewed how the MAPP test correlates with the communication rubrics that were developed by the faculty this past spring. The MAPP test contains multiple-choice questions based on existing items and written paragraphs. Conversely, the rubrics are designed to assess students' written and other submitted work. It was also suggested that the MAPP test does not adequately assess math classes such as Statistics. It would be preferred to assess student accomplishments in math by sampling work within an ePortfolio where math concepts are used. Nancy stated that the MAPP test may be a necessary part of the general education assessment process and may be one useful "piece" of the whole process.

- During the discussion on ePortfolios, it was strongly stated that a given assignment should only be included in the portfolio because it represents what a student has learned instead of developing assignments specifically for the ePortfolio assessment.

Definitions: Review/Revision

- It was decided to distribute the definitions and rubrics to the college-wide faculty prior to the August 21st convocation discipline meetings through a Wiki website to be developed by the Liberal Arts department. All of the definitions and rubrics will be presented; however, there will be no changes in the Communication area as this area has already been approved and accepted following a college-wide faculty vote.
- According to Nancy, Dr. Green will speak to the faculty for about 30 minutes prior to the discipline meetings on August 21st. He will talk about general education assessment and student persistence issues.
- Facilitators were identified for most of the discipline areas to lead group discussions on the definitions and rubrics. Nancy will be certain there are facilitators for the remaining groups.

Youlanda Henry/Chris Twiggs- Communications
 Bill Meisel/Joel Rappoport – Mathematics
 Maria Oehler/Lourdes Norman – Natural Sciences
 John Wall/Patricia Bell – Social & Behavioral Sciences
 Andrea Thaxton/ ??? – Humanities
 Wayne Singletary/Patty Lee (?) – Workforce (Business)

Communication Rubrics: Review/Revision

- It was decided to leave the Communication definition and rubrics alone for now. They will be reviewed and revised (if needed) following the pilots.

Pilot Programs

- Chris Twiggs will lead an ePortfolio pilot at South Campus. The pilot will be planned during fall 2008, and it will be implemented in spring 2009. Interested faculty from other campuses will be invited to attend training and participate in this pilot.
- Nancy Yurko indicated that there is an ePortfolio project at LaGuardia Community College for which we can potentially partner with them. Brett Enyon will contact her to let her know if such a partnership is allowable under their grant requirements.
- Capstone Experience- Several workforce programs already have capstone courses or are planning them for the future. It may be possible to try out the Communications rubric in one of these capstone courses.

Reporting Deadlines

- Statewide Task Force – By June 2009, we must submit the results of our assessment in one area. We will submit for Communication. Each of the following four years we will be required to submit for a different area until all have been submitted.

- SACS – As a part of our 5-year interim report, we must include data related to Gen. Ed. compliance standards. We will need to keep meeting minutes and post results from student and faculty surveys.

Upcoming Meetings

- The next task force meeting is at MCCS on 9/8/08 from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM.
- The next college-wide GEA meeting is at Deerwood on 9/26/08 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Attachments

A – FCCJ - AAC&U Institute 2008, Final Report

B – General Education Assessment (GEA) Task Force - End of Year Report and Recommendations

Prepared by Karen Stearns