

Dean of Students Area Assessment Report

Submitted by Jennifer Michael, Dean of Students
January 2013



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dean of Students staff through a transitional period maintained the three learning goals set forth by previous Deans, they are:

1. Students will demonstrate regard for themselves and others.
2. Students will develop skills to collaborate and communicate effectively with others.
3. Students will develop skills to be engaged members of a global society.

The DOS staff will review these learning goals in the spring of 2013 and determine if they are still best for our area and our students. The area also focuses on five core values; education, inclusion, quality, development and integrity. Each department under the DOS submitted assessment reports of their work based on their connection to the above.

I. Mission Statements

Wells College

The mission of Wells College is to educate students to think critically, reason wisely, and act humanely as they cultivate meaningful lives. Through Wells' academic program, residential atmosphere, and community activities, students learn and practice the ideals of the liberal arts. The Wells experience prepares students to appreciate complexity and difference, to embrace new ways of knowing, to be creative, and to respond ethically to the interdependent worlds to which they belong. Committed to excellence in all areas of its reach, Wells College equips students for lifelong learning and for sharing the privileges of education with others.

Dean of Students Office

In accordance with the Wells College mission, community standards statement, and honor code, the Dean of Students office strives to cultivate a welcoming and inclusive environment. We work closely with students to design policies and programs to assist in their personal development.

II. Dean of Students Staff

Dean of Students' Office

Jennifer Michael, Dean of Students

Chaplain

Robert French

Residence Life

Malindra Ratnayake, Director of Residence Life

Student Activities and Leadership

Nicole Pellegrino, Director of Student Activities and Leadership

Kelly Latopolski, Assistant Director of Student Activities

III. Student Learning Goals (*developed previously*)

<i>Goal One: Students will demonstrate regard for themselves and others.</i>	<i>Goal Two: Students will develop skills to collaborate and communicate effectively with others.</i>	<i>Goal Three: Students will develop skills to be engaged members of a global society.</i>
<i>Students will be able to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Articulate personal values and identity.</i> ✓ <i>Understand how culture and background influence personal development.</i> ✓ <i>Effectively negotiate positive relationships.</i> ✓ <i>Demonstrate respect for difference.</i> ✓ <i>Articulate the meaning of the College Mission, Community Standards Statement and Honor Code.</i> 	<i>Students will be able to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Share communal living, learning and social spaces with their peers.</i> ✓ <i>Advocate for themselves.</i> ✓ <i>Consider diverse perspectives.</i> ✓ <i>Work collaboratively toward a common goal.</i> ✓ <i>Listen and share ideas effectively.</i> 	<i>Students will be able to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Set personal and group goals.</i> ✓ <i>Appropriately manage stress.</i> ✓ <i>Create and articulate systems that govern their behavior.</i> ✓ <i>Maintain and improve their physical, mental and emotional health.</i> ✓ <i>Manage time effectively.</i>

Ultimately the work we all do in the areas under the Dean of Students aims to address all of the above goals and outcomes. By being active and engaged community members, students are working on many of the outcomes every day. Successful navigation of shared living spaces, participation in clubs or services as well as allowing the space for self-governance and time management all allow students the opportunities to master skills and develop as citizens.

IV. Fall 2012 Assessment Initiatives

The Office of Student Activities and Leadership

The OSAL developed goals (*to help meet the above divisional goals*) and assessed them at the semester break as a means of planning for the spring and addressing any shortfalls from the fall. The summary of their department goals and assessment is below:

2012-2013 Departmental Goals:

1. Continue weekend programming throughout the semester

Action Item	Assessment Measure
Schedule an activity for each Friday and Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was at least one activity each Friday and Saturday throughout the semester
Create a brand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Weekends at Wells” brand created. Logo used on posters and sandwich board in the dining hall
Publicize the weekend events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A poster was created and posted in early fall Each week a sandwich board was updated and put in the dining hall Towards the end of the semester we sent out emails on Thursdays entitled “Weekends at Wells” The emails will continue in the Spring and athletic competitions will be added to the list

2. Find an electronic way to assess programs

Action Item	Assessment Measure
Research electronic assessment programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluated and tested isurvey which we found to be too costly for our uses. Currently evaluating the feasibility of using survey monkey on ipads at the end of each event
Implement a program in spring 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will have picked a way to assess programs by the start of the spring semester
Assess the program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

3. Bring students to a conference

Action Item	Assessment Measure
Research costs associated with various conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created a list of both local and regional conferences that students at Wells might be interested in including NODA, NACA, ASGA
Bring PLs to NODA Region IX conference in February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emailed PLs about the conference, have a short session during January Orientation about NODA Plan to bring 2-3 Peer Leaders to Region IX, pending interest.
Look into bringing Programming Board members to a NACA conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too many PB students were away the weekend of the NACA National Conference The Regional NACA Conference will be held in Buffalo in October 2013

4. Bring new and exciting events/acts/performers to campus

Action Item	Assessment Measure
More in house programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held a very successful (about 50 people) slam poetry

	<p>night</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had a trivia night series which had 4 consistent teams and up to 4 additional teams with about a dozen spectators • Cupcake wars was greatly successful-8 teams and spectators
More action based programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karaoke was one of the most popular events of the semester with 100 participants • Held a black light laser tag with about 80 attendees
Partner with Wells Dining to increase attendance and excitement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnered with Wells Dining on karaoke and trivia nights
Increase make and takes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have planned more activities of this nature for the spring with some events taking place on weekdays during lunch
Rethink the Winter Freeze event to increase attendance and excitement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will have a zombie themed event on January 26th with both active and passive events as well as prizes.
Partner with new companies to test out their offerings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have booked a casino night, comedian, and Black History month game show from two new companies
Highlight “history months”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to have a kick-off event at the beginning of February for Black History Month • Plan to have a kick-off event at the beginning of March for Women’s History Month

5. Be on time more often

Action Item	Assessment Measure
Leave Main Building earlier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We try to leave Main Building at least 10 minutes before we have to be at a meeting in another building

6. Do more with leadership and/or a leadership retreat

Action Item	Assessment Measure
Create Leadership Development Series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacted staff members on campus about participating as facilitators for a session • Received 5 responses, awaiting some program topics • Plan to begin program 2nd week in February • Hope to have a certificate for completing series given out at awards dinner. • Will advertise to students last week in January/first week in

	February
Set a goal number of students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the first semester of the series, we would love to have at least 10 students get a certificate.

7. Program for the Community Read

Action Item	Assessment Measure
Held "Dessert and Discussion" about book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held a dessert and discussion event in faculty parlors Attendance was low due to timing in the semester
Put together a faculty panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified two of the three faculty we hope to have on the panel Both faculty accepted and have planned their roles. Contacted Christina Wahl about possibility of a science colloquium time for panel Will advertise panel once the third faculty member is on board.
Work with Library staff to create a display about relevant literature/research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contacted Muriel Godbout to set up a meeting
Incorporate an additional activity into the Spring SC 111 syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An additional game show/debate will be held one week in SC 111

8. Create a class officer office space

Action Item	Assessment Measure
Identify a space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have identified the space in the sommer center at the top of the entrance stairs as the best spot
Ready the space for use by class officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B&G contacted about cleaning and removing excess furniture from the office. Some of the extra furniture will be used in the multicultural space
Notify class officers of the space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class officers will be told in January at the first COCO meeting about the space which will serve as a meeting space as well.

9. Create/modify club storage space

Action Item	Assessment Measure
Identify a space for club storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toured spaces with Brian Brown and located space in the basement of Dodge
Create separate spaces for clubs with limited access items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified a smaller space for paintball guns, archery equipment, etc Identified a larger space with shelving for the general club/org population
Clean and organize former “club hub” and restock as necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs and Organizations were emailed in the fall about removing all things that they wanted to keep in that space. Will organize remaining belongings, throwing away broken/outdated/useless things. Will reassign empty bins to current clubs/organization

10. Increase enrollment in WLLS 123

Action Item	Assessment Measure
Advertise class earlier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emails were sent to students letting them know about the class PLs introduced class at SC 111
Use students who took the class to encourage other students to enroll	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students from spring 2012 encouraged a few students who enrolled in fall 2012.
Use evaluation data when received, to increase class worth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will receive data in spring 2013 and modify syllabus as needed

11. Continue to use social media to advertise

Action Item	Assessment Measure
Use twitter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twitter account created Solicited followers by including twitter name in emails and flyers Added twitter to email signature Tweet out programs and events and tag the college to increase views
Meet with someone from communications about increasing our audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with Clare from Communications Changed Facebook group title to fit

	better with other departments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rearranged “likes” on SAL Facebook page
Increase Facebook audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posted results from contests on Facebook • Had people vote via Facebook which increased our “likes” by 300%
Change pictures on social media to reflect current events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have regularly changed and updated photos • Uploaded more photos to Facebook
Research text message program to increase attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have researched a number of programs designed to send out “text blasts” to students notifying them of events • Need to weigh cost of program with benefit • Will assess how students heard about a program in the spring to see where we fall short

The Office of Residence Life and Learning Communities

The ORL submitted goals for students living in the residence halls, listed below. The assessment of these goals is ongoing and a full report will be prepared in the spring.

Students living in the residence halls at Wells College will participate in activities to achieve the following educational goals:

Personal Development—the examination and clarification of one’s own beliefs, values and identities.

Academic Success—the utilization of resources and development of skills to achieve one’s scholarly goals.

Community Development—the participation in an environment in which all members are mutually valued and supported, and members recognize the impact their decisions have on others.

Citizenship—the act of becoming an informed and active member of local and global communities in pursuit of a healthy economy, environment and society.

Diversity—intentionally contributing to an inclusive and intercultural environment while expanding one’s own understanding of living in a diverse world.

The ORL administered the housing survey in the fall semester which did not address the above goals. With a new director and clearer expectations by the DOS, the above will be assessed in the spring of 2013.

The Chaplains Office

The Chaplain works 10 hours a week and through his programs and access to religious services contributes to the divisional goals listed above. This term the chaplain did no formal assessment.

V. Looking ahead

The Dean of Students area will approach assessment differently in the coming months. One of our goals, when the team is complete, will be to have a half day seminar on assessment and to develop a common tool that addresses the overarching assessment of the division, separate from individual departments.