

EPC minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:30. In attendance was Provost Speaker, Professors Cummins, McClusky and Waugh and student representative Adrianna Tarleton.

1. Since the BoT Academic Affairs meeting was the next day the Committee briefly summarized what we have been doing this semester.
2. The Committee then continued discussion about assessment. Specifically, the Chair expressed concern that there is a lack of consistency in EPCs message about assessment, its goals and procedure from year to year. There is also a lack of feedback on Assessment Reports that many faculty request, however, since this falls to EPC and EPC membership changes and since EPC has many other tasks under its purview such feedback has been hard to provide. In short, there is lack of a global and consistent approach to assessment.
 - a. The Committee discussed the need to streamline the process or make the process more consistent to facilitate program compliance.
 - b. The Committee discussed several models for solving the problem of lack of consistency by proposing several models that would help address the issue, including creating Divisional "Assessment Czars," bringing the Director of Institutional Research on-board to oversee all assessment or EPC creating a system to evaluate assessment. We discussed the possibility of implementing one of more of these models.
 - c. In efforts to create a system to evaluate assessment the Committee began by discussing what the primary goals of assessment are, basically if we were to suggest a model for evaluating assessment what would we be including. The following three elements arose from discussion:
 - i. Assessment reports should have data that indicate student learning is taking place in the areas indicated in any given Assessment Plan; this data should be collected at an appropriate level (not on too minuscule of a level such as one data point in one assignment being used as data for an entire report)
 - ii. Assessment reports should show changes in the curriculum, assignments, lectures, projects, etc. that are meant to improve student learning according to the Objectives laid out in an Assessment Plan and are based in the above data
 - iii. Assessment reports should show that everyone is collecting some kind of data in their classes every semester.
 - d. The Committee discussed the fact that assessment is where faculty have shown resistance to low salary and increasing workloads. Yet, assessment is required by Middle States for accreditation. Dealing with larger issues of workload, or at least being mindful of them, may help faculty to approach the task with greater enthusiasm. At the same time, maintaining shared governance and having faculty input into assessment is important.
3. The Committee agreed that for the next meeting we would examine current documents that we use for assessment guidance, as well as begin discussion of how to proceed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura J. McClusky