

Lafayette College

Division of Student Life

Annual Report

Student Learning and Assessment Committee
2009-10

Submitted by: Karen J. Forbes, Ph.D., Chair
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I. Committee Mission Statement.

The Student Learning and Assessment Committee is charged with providing leadership and support for assessment activities in the Division. The Committee provides direction for outcomes-based assessment of student learning and oversees departmental self-evaluations using the standards outlined by the Council on the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education or other professional standards. (*unchanged*)

II. Review of Assessment Efforts

A. CAS Review Status

The CAS review of Divisional Outcomes Assessment and Program Evaluation is tentatively scheduled for fall 2011.

- B. The SLAC's impact on student learning is indirect; our outcomes involve enhancing the ability of student life professionals to engage in outcomes-based assessment so that their programs and services are achieving their stated goals for student learning. This chart includes activities related to the primary goals of the Student Learning and Assessment Committee.

Goal	Outcome	Activities	Evaluation Method	Results	Decisions
Provide direction for outcomes-based assessment of student learning	Identify assessment resources for use by Student Life units	Hosted two webinars on Assessing Leadership and Using Data to Make Decisions	Informal discussion among participants. Formal evaluation results were conducted by webinar producers.	Participants used material from the Leadership webinar to develop workshop for department heads	Use in-house resources where possible to reduce expense and increase relevance
		Rubric workshop during student life meeting	Opinio survey (n=11). Participants were asked to identify 3 parts of a rubric, identify methods and tools, and give an example of how they would use the information.	Correct answers ranged from 9/11 to 11/11 for all rubric identification questions. About 50% of participants INCORRECTLY identified rubrics and checklists as methods.	Reinforce differences between methods or evaluation and tools for identifying whether the method led to the achievement of learning outcomes. All participants were able to identify a use for rubrics in their practices.
		Divisional Assessment Plan developed by SLAC	Shared with department heads	Concerns raised about time and value of assessment	SLAC will need to increase engagement in assessment process.
	Provide feedback to departments on their assessment activities	Dr. Forbes reviewed all mission statements using specific criteria	Reviewed mission statements for brevity, purpose, compatibility with Division goals and mission	All divisions revised their mission statements.	Department goals should be identical or similar to Divisional goals.

	Develop methods to track how well Division is achieving goals for student learning	Met with dept heads to construct list of programs and create divisional learning goals	Reviewed drafts of learning goals with student life division.	Created two documents, Div. of Student Life Learning Goals & Map of Student Learning	We will convert the Excel map of student learning to an electronic database in fall 2010. Excel form will be used for annual reports in 2010.
Oversee CAS self-evaluations	Provide guidance to departments on CAS reviews.	SLACers met with ISA, Health Center, Landis, Religious Life	Work forms	ISA and Health Ctr completed	Review all CAS work forms to find themes

III. Review of 2009-10

A. Overview of activities

- a. The Committee met 14 times.
- b. We held a department head planning meeting to create a list of divisional programs and identify division-wide learning goals.
- c. We created the Student Life Learning Goals & Criteria, a Student Life Map of Learning in the Division, and a Departmental Assessment Record.
- d. We sought input from department heads and all members of the Student Life staff on the documents listed in c.

B. Challenges

1. Assessment activities are still under the direction of a committee and part-time director and often cannot be given priority due to committee members' other responsibilities.
2. We need to identify individuals to teach basic data analyses and use of statistical programming packages to division members to assist us in making decisions about how to improve our programs and services. We might be able to enlist the assistance of the Office of Institutional Research or colleagues in the Department of Psychology.
3. We do not have a way to track student leadership experience across the division nor do we have a clearly defined model of leadership, making it difficult to track the ways we contribute to leadership development.

C. Opportunities

1. We would like to find ways to "tell stories" about the value of assessment so that the process is intrinsically meaningful to division members. The Appreciative Inquiry model being introduced to the College in June 2010 could serve as an approach for gathering information. We might also collaborate with Career Services colleagues who collect information about student experiences when they prepare students for interviews. These conversations should focus on divisional goals for student learning. One possible outlet for such stories might include a website showcasing what students have learned through engaging with student life departments. E-portfolios are another option for demonstrating what students are learning outside of the classroom and could increase student awareness of how learning takes place across the campus.

2. We can also increase awareness of the extrinsic rewards of assessment including recognition from colleagues, the Board of Trustees, access to resources, and positive personnel evaluations.
3. The Advisory Committee on Assessment and the First Year Experience group can be partners in our efforts to track learning across campus and to use existing data gathered from college-wide assessment instruments.

Status	Student Learning & Assessment Committee Tasks	Assign
x	Set an agenda for May Assessment Workshop with Marilee	
x	Send timeline for regular feedback from Marilee on various materials; include Bloom's taxonomy	
x	Define SLAC role using the McCawley logic model	
x	Contact OSU and speak to Larry Roper and Rebecca Sanderson	
x	Revise division mission statement	
x	Develop plan for carrot and sticks for assessment participation	
x	SLAC provides mission info to department heads	
x	Develop budget for assessment activities such as evaluations and professional development	
x	Departments create their learning outcomes map (stage 1) with at least two programs	
x	Workshop presented by Marilee on methodology, evaluation techniques and analysis of results	
x	Achieve 100% accuracy on common vocabulary with student life staff	
x	Discuss Middle States feedback	
ACA	Communicate with faculty assessment committee re: their direction and results transparency	
x	Revise annual report format	
Dismissed	Create rubric for evaluating	
x	Create department head retreat agenda	
x	Ask departments to revisit mission statements	
x	Create process for outcomes based decisions (OBD)	
x	Set- up section on Moodle for sharing assessment resources	
Dismissed	SLAC consult with Marilee about development of flow chart/checklist for OBD	
x	Clarify responsibility for designating someone in each department as assessment "champion"	
x	Develop a working relationship with IR office	
Dismissed	Receive feedback from Marilee about department learning outcomes map (stage 2b)	
Dismissed	Workshop presented Marilee on OBDs and she gives feedback on the two additional LO's	
Dismissed	Special session with Marilee and department heads (second half of day)	
Dismissed	Departments expand their learning outcomes map (stage 3) by adding two more programs	
Dismissed	SLAC reviews department maps and overlay it with the division map	
Dismissed	Departments expand their learning outcomes map by adding two more programs	
ACA	Maintain relationship with faculty assessment committee	
x	Determine if CAS department reviews should continue	
x	Plan May retreat	
x	Create final version of "Department Assessment Record" (DAR)	
x	SLAC determine method to review of division record	
Dec-10	Vice president speaks to departments about targeting our neglected goals and outcomes	VP
Jun-10	Outcomes Based Decision-making (OBD) process and place on web site	KF/JF
Oct-10	Revise performance evaluations to include assessment component	VP
Dec-10	Add the annual report rubric evaluation to mid-year goals update / performance evaluation	VP
Jun-10	Departments use "Department Assessment Record" (DAR) for documenting OBD's	all
ongoing	Make sure new employees receive assessment training via Moodle	JF
Sep-10	Create outcomes database for annual reporting	VP