

OEA Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 2016
1:30-3:00 p.m.
O'Hara 526

Present:

Dr. Mary Jane DiMattio, Dr. Satyajit Ghosh, Ms. Rebecca Haggerty, Dr. Patricia Harrington, Dr. Cyrus Olsen, Dr. Vanessa Silla, Prof. Nicholas Truncale and Mr. Richard Walsh

Excused:

Dr. Mary Goldschmidt

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2016 meeting was made by Dr. Olsen; seconded by Dr. Ghosh; and all were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

University of Wabash Trip:

This item was moved up on the agenda in order for sufficient presentation time for Prof. Truncale. Prof. Truncale expressed his opinion that the University of Scranton is in much better shape with a mature program as far as assessment, and our GE Program in particular, is concerned than many of the other universities that were represented at the workshop.

This workshop assisted in focusing and refining the plan to do a combination study that will include our focus groups collecting data on FYDT and FYOC general education outcomes in addition to other things in the Physics Department including attrition in the Physics/EE Department. The data collected will be reported to the OEA in June. The students (Caitlin Pellegrino and Jesse Kemmerling) are excited to work on this project. They learned how to analyze the data at this workshop. The idea is to use younger students to work on the projects so they, in turn, can encourage new students.

Additionally, Prof. Truncale would like to look into getting some type of non-credit recognition of their work for these students. Essentially, they are doing qualitative research with these types of studies. The students will be comparing how Prof. Truncale's EP course compares to outcomes in the Public Speaking and Computer Literacy Courses. They will be looking at two cohorts: freshmen and sophomores who have gone through Prof. Truncale's 150 Course and then groups of juniors and seniors in the Physics Department who haven't taken the course. The students already have approval from the Wabash Workshop for the questions they will be using for the focus groups.

Additionally, after the project is completed, a retreat may be held at Chapman Lake so that these students can train incoming students who are interested in the project. It was suggested that the retreat can be called: "Provost Assessment Scholars (PAS)". Dr. Harrington will reach out to Ms. Barber in Counseling and Human Services to inquire whether or not the graduate students would like to be involved with the focus groups that will be conducted for this venture.

Assessment Workshop:

A room has been reserved for May 25th for another Assessment Workshop Institute presentation. Dr. DiMattio asked Prof. Truncale if it would be possible to have the students who are working on the above project available to present their findings. Prof. Truncale said this would be feasible.

Guidance Document:

A guidance document was brought up on the screen in the meeting room for all to view. The document is about how we recommend using evidence generated through assessment. Ms. Yerkes recommended this document as many other schools are already using it and the document would be beneficial to the assessment process. The members suggested a few changes. Dr. Olsen completed the final changes during the meeting and sent the document back to Ms. Yerkes for her approval.

Assessment Flow Chart:

Dr. DiMattio distributed the article: "Assessment Clear & Simple" in order to improve the wording on the assessment flow chart that Ms. Mancuso recently prepared. Dr. DiMattio and Mr. Walsh met yesterday to talk about ways to add text to the flow chart to make it look similar to figure 2.2 from the article. Several suggestions for revisions were made. Dr. DiMattio explained that whatever revisions took place today would be the final ones that would enter into the Middle States Monitoring Report.

Web Content for MR:

The Academic Assessment Report web page designed by Ms. Brackeva-Phillips was brought up on the screen in the meeting room for review by the members. While the page is a "dead" page for right now, it will be essential for web content for the Monitoring Report submitted to Middle States. Many possible revisions were discussed; however, for reviewers' ease of use, the final decision was to make the program list alphabetical. Dr. Harrington reminded Dr. Olsen that the page must be live before April 2nd.

Dr. DiMattio noted that the program plans and reports will be accessed through the OEA webpage. It was also mentioned that "pending" assessment reports will be defined as such. "No" reports is incorrect because all reports eventually will be completed. Mr. Walsh will be meeting with Mr. Schwenk and Dr. Murli before finalizing the web page with Dr. Olsen.

Program Directors' Meetings:

Dr. DiMattio previously met with Dr. Fisher and recently met with Dr. Waldeck and Dr. Dzurek concerning assessment questions; e.g., clarification of the word "rubric". All three meetings were positive and productive. Dr. Olsen has also had several encouraging meetings that he will report upon at the next OEA meeting near the end of March.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Scherer
Recording Secretary
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