



Academic Quality Meeting

2013-2014 Academic Year

Meeting Date: October 1, 2013

Time: 12:30pm

Chair: Veronica (Ronni) Tichenor

Secretary: Sue Kimak

Present: Ronni Tichenor, Valerie Fusco, Ron Sarnar, Atlas Hsie, Kazuko Behrens, Narayan Sharma, Joanne Joseph, Ildiko Monahan, Rafael Romero, Ryan Lizardi, Suzanne Sprague, Doneilous King, Betsey Campbell

Guests: Denise Savoy

Absent: Doug Eich, Mary Perrone

Ronni distributed several handouts.

Report from Learning Center

Denise Savoy from the Learning Center attended as a guest. Doug Eich will present in November.

Dr. Joseph reported that the Learning Center is happy about the math side of house. Math gen ed results indicated we did not meet benchmarks and needed to close the loop. One of the reasons was we need better coordination amongst adjuncts and a better assessment tool. The Math Department met and would like to implement a math placement exam. Valerie Fusco spoke with Zora Thomova and the Math Department doesn't know what has worked in the past and is in the process of reviewing them now.

Denise Savoy is currently working on gen ed math assessment and working with MVCC. We are looking at placement exams.

Ron Sarnar discussed that all information we gather on students should be with the intent of casting a wide net for best results. Placement exams in Computer Science majors were unpredictable whereas SAT scores were predictable and certain combinations can predict success or failure. We need tools to assess gen education math issues and we should be doing more analytical studies.

Discussion of Self Study Questions

Ronni Tichenor met with working groups and the Middle States liaison. The academic quality area has a heavy load. Ronni met with chairs of other committees (Mary Perrone, Chris Urban, Russ Kahn, and Bill

Thistleton) that share the standards with this committee. There are some language issues. This month our group is to review questions and recommend to steering committee changes or additions.

The committee reviewed “*Responsibilities for Standards 11, 12, 13 and 14 Middle States Self Study Fall 2013*” and the following was noted:

St11/2 hold as potential issue certification re: nursing certification. Ron Sarnar believes certificate issues shouldn't be included (belong to CPE).

St11Q6 we can assess and go back to lower level (Community College) BOCES working k-12. Within next two years (we can document it's happening).

St11Q7 what is “Timeliness” relevant and current? Refers to relevance. Change to: *Ensure quality and review of timeliness of programs*. Joanne will bring back to steering committee. After discussion it was agreed to leave as is.

St12 Q1 Technology should look at distance learning.

St13Q1 What is 1 asking that 2 isn't. The first one prerequisites apply in face to face and online. Are assignments comparable? 2nd is what are student learning outcomes.

St13Q3 Looking at processes in curriculum committee.

St14Q1 Talk about numbers dwindling.

St143 What are we doing in between cycles?

Ronni noted the Chair of this committee sits on Institutional Effectiveness to share assessment data. We get standard 7 because information is shared at another level.

St14Q5 Needs to be added to listing. It will be Academic Quality and Grad Council.

Ronni will clean up and send back out to committee. At the next meeting, the committee will look to see what data we need to answer questions. We need a repository for all these documents. Maureen Cool is collecting, they will be housed in the Institutional Research Resource Room B250.

Ronni will ask faculty to close loop on various issues. We need information for all of these issues and outcomes. If we have programs not doing assessment we will put the spotlight on those programs and work with the departments to make sure everything has been filed.

Dr. Joseph discussed student learning outcomes on the program level. At a continuous level, programs need to look at courses and first and foremost look at goals aligned with student outcomes. We need to examine the learning outcomes and connect them to graded assignments that are administered in the class and determine if they are meeting the benchmark and standard (or not).

Dr. Joseph gave an example of a class section on methods where the grades were poor. This year she changed teaching approach with same assignment and had improved results and it's documented.

Departments could meet and review courses that have been taught that semester. A hand out titled "Direct and Indirect Methods for Assessing Student Learning" was distributed. In addition to looking at each course for programs, we need to look at capstone courses and do traditional level assessments.

To assist, Dr. Durgin is setting up a series of luncheons for faculty. The plan is to have small group meetings to work with faculty and do these luncheons on a continuous basis.

Plans for Sociology

The Sociology coordinator was invited to this meeting and declined to come. There are four larger goals underneath objectives for students and SUNY mission goals under some don't apply.

Rafael Romero questioned why put in things that are not in the mission. Put in fewer and make them to the point. Ronni will take those comments back to keep it simple and straight forward.

Plans for Nursing/Accreditation

The Nursing Accreditation was last week and the department was reviewed on four standards. The last standard on processes and benchmarks was weak but Nursing did great on the first three and the evaluators were very supportive. One year ago the program was in jeopardy.

The statistics were on full time students and we were told standard 4 we are going to be getting recommendation for benchmarks. The department needs to keep better records and doesn't have accurate graduation rates because of the number of part time students. Also, when students are certified the certifying authority doesn't disclose that information. The lead evaluator indicated there has to be a way to obtain this information. The Nursing benchmarks weren't right but Nursing did a good job of mapping.

Next Meeting

Ronni reported that we still need plans for Business. Rafael will send to Ronni. Math is also missing and Edmund Rusjan was going to submit by 10/1/13. IDT is coming.

Dr. Joseph stated program reviews for programs that don't get accreditation are beginning and she volunteered Psychology to be reviewed first.

The next meeting we will continue reviews and the Learning Center update. Also, there are Student Opinion Survey issues related with quality to teaching and assessing that Ronni has a copy of. We need to review what we can do for improvement.