

ACC Meeting Name: Achieving Excellence Committee

D R A F T Minutes

Meeting Date: September 19

Time: 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Location: HBC, Room 301

Chair: Soon Merz

Members Present: D'Maris Allen-Mierl, David Borden, Steve Clary, Sandy Gaskin, Lyman Grant, Ron Johns, Virginia Lawrence, Mike McCarthy, Nancy Miller, Theresa Moore, Caryn Newburger, Martha Perez, Linda Welsh, Soon Merz, C. Jason Vidrine, Roslyn Wallace, Julie Wauchope, and Chris Rosales.

Absent: Sheila Ammons, Kathleen Christensen, Zach Corbell, Norma Jacobs, Soon Merz, Mike Midgley, Kyle Pierce, Charles Quinn, Margaret Reid, and Diane Whitley-Bogard.

Agenda Item 1: Introductions and Welcome

Presenter: Mike McCarthy

Discussion: Mike introduced himself and gave some professional background. Committee members introduced themselves.

Decisions: None

Follow Up Items and Responsible person: None

Agenda Item 2: SACS Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, and Federal Requirements Related to Student Learning Outcomes

Presenter: Mike McCarthy

Discussion: To frame John's discussion of EEO's, Mike recalled SACS C.S. 3.3.1, C.R. 2.5, C.S. 3.4.10, C.S. 3.5.1, and F.R. 4.1

Decisions: None

Follow Up Items and Responsible person: None

Agenda Item 3: Exemplary Educational Outcomes (EEOs)

Presenter: Ron Johns

Discussion:

Ron provided a presentation explaining EEOs.

- A. Assessment is required by both SACS and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

- B. SACS requires colleges and universities to incorporate into each degree plan 15 hours in general education courses.
- C. ACC has to demonstrate to SACS that students are learning specific skills in general education courses.
- D. ACC has to demonstrate to THECB that students are learning very similar skills to those required by SACS.
- E. How a course is evaluated is up to the individual department. The assessment instrument must be tied to “intellectual competencies” such as reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical-thinking and computer literacy. The assessment data must be reported to the OIEA. Some assessment options include:
 - 1. testing (most widely used)
 - 2. standardized testing
 - 3. essays
 - 4. oral presentations
 - 5. laboratory reports
 - 6. case studies
 - 7. using student response systems in lecture (such as iClickers)

Assessment tools must be:

- measurable
- practical
- non-punitive
- meaningful

Assessment tools that do not take a lot of faculty time.

Assessment of Core Curriculum and General Education courses is required by both SACS and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. This assessment information needs to be used to try to improve student learning.

- F. Some instructors are concerned that the assessment data might be used to access the instructor.

Decisions: None

Follow Up Items and Responsible person:

Agenda Item 4: 2008-2009 AEC Work Plan

Presenter: Mike McCarthy

Discussion: Mike suggested that one function of the committee may include identification instances of exemplar assessment. Members discussed how to distinguish a very good assessment.

- exemplary guidelines should be offered to faculty as a resource, not as a template

- a suggestion was made to formalize a way to bring out the *stars* of our assessment process
 - the committee discussed formal committee endorsement for exemplary assessment initiatives

Decisions: None

Follow Up Items and Responsible person: Roslyn will identify examples of assessment to forward to committee members to review before discussion at the Oct 17 meeting.

Agenda Item 5: SENSE Survey Update

Presenter: Mike McCarthy

Discussion: ACC is participating in the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (*SENSE*). The *SENSE* focuses on institutional practices and student behaviors in the first month of college and is currently being administered. The project is part of *CCSSE* and the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin.

Understanding students’ earliest experiences can help us enhance student learning, retention, and success. We are looking forward to seeing the results by next summer.

Decisions: None

Follow Up Items and Responsible person: None

Agenda Item 6: A First Look at Noel-Levitz Survey Results

Presenter: Mike McCarthy

Discussion: Mike gave a PP presentation of the Noel-Levitz survey results (included with meeting materials in folder on s drive). AEC members got the first look at these results. The survey measures students' satisfaction with their college experience and includes questions on faculty, advising, and campus services.

- There was a 20% response rate.
The following are some questions and responses on the survey.
- The survey asked, “So far how has your college experience met your expectations”.
 - 53% of ACC respondents indicated that their experience at ACC was better than expected.
- The survey asked students to, “Rate your overall satisfaction with your experience here thus far”.
 - 85% expressed satisfaction with their experience at ACC.
- The survey asked, “All in all, if you had to do it all over, would you enroll here again”.
 - 88% replied that they would enroll at ACC again.

Decisions: None

Follow Up Items and Responsible person: None

Agenda Item 7: Recent SACS Activities

Presenter: Mike McCarthy

Discussion:

Mike reported on recent SACS activities at ACC. SACS performed a site visit at the South Austin Campus. The visit resulted in a single recommendation regarding documentation of faculty credentials. The OIEA office is preparing ACC's 5th Year Interim Report that is due to SACS by October 1, 2008.

Decisions: None

Follow Up Items and Responsible person: None

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Next meeting: October 26, 2007