

2007 Assessment Task Force

DRAFT Minutes
August 23, 2007
1PM-3:30PM
By telephone

In attendance: David Aday (for President Nichol), Robin Anderson, Elsie Barnes (for President Myers), Joseph DeFilippo, Deborah DiCroce, Dary Erwin, Karen Genteman, Vernon Harper, Thomas Isenhour, Wayne McWee, Monty Sullivan

1. Introduction

- Approval of prior minutes and review of agenda

2. Discussion concerning the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) and IPAC

- Provost Isenhour of Old Dominion University gave a briefing on the VSA to the Task Force and the role of student learning assessment in that initiative.
- A template for VSA reporting was circulated, and the group discussed the details of VSA website hosting and maintenance.
- It was noted that test makers have a lot of flexibility in tailoring a measure to the needs of an institution.
- Genteman reported that GMU would follow VSA guidelines to report future data, except for the learning assessment piece.
- The group resolved that the VSA should be brought to the attention of Council.
- One of the recommended instruments of the VSA, the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA), was discussed in detail.
 - Genteman indicated that the CLA and other tests are problematic when used in low stakes situations.
 - It was also mentioned that another problem with a value-added approach is the lack of a proper control group.
 - Longwood resolved that the CLA was not appropriate for their institution.
- The group continued to discuss the VSA approach and resolved that the VSA needs to be acknowledged in this report to Council. McWee volunteered to draft language for the report.

3. Costs associated with assessment practices were discussed.

- The Task force discussed the cost language prepared by Sullivan, and reached consensus that that the next step would be to arrive at a more direct estimate of

- the additional costs that will be involved in doing value added assessment. Sullivan, Feiss, and Barnes agreed to work on this for the next meeting.
- A discussion concerning the calculation of assessment costs per student FTE ensued.
 - The Chair assigned tasks to task force members for completion of the guideline document.
 - Genteman and Anderson will draft an annotated bibliography to replace the formal references section of the guideline document.
 - Erwin and Aday volunteered to rework the assessment criteria of the guideline document.
4. William and Mary's rewrite of the guideline document was circulated.
- The group discussed the specific language changes made to the document by William and Mary.
 - Aday explained that language changes were intended to make the document more approachable and less technical. Also, the redesign was intended to raise the language of the document to a presidential tone.
 - Some group members were concerned that the document has become less of a resource document and more of a guideline.
 - The notion of reliability and validity were discussed in detail.
5. Time for next meeting was established and details for a joint ATF and IPAC meeting were arranged.
- September 7th 2007, 1PM-3PM: Task Force meeting by telephone
 - September 19th 2007, 1PM-3PM: Joint meeting with IPAC at SCHEV in Richmond.