STUDENT LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING
(and end-of-the-year banquet)
April 17, 2008
3:00 pm
J-0006

Present: Alfredson, O., Gawlik, W., Keller, S., LaTour, K. (Coordinator), Lee, M., McKeon, S., Morrow, S., Offerman, J., Smith, R., Suchy, C., Zuro, S.

Absent: Anderson, C., Boudreau, S., Connor, B., Krause, S., Magruder, M., Schley, C., Stroud, B.,

CALL TO ORDER
K. LaTour opened the April 2008 Student Learning Committee meeting and banquet at 3:20 pm in J-0006. Attendance was taken.

MINUTES

Sandy moved to approve the minutes. Scott K. seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. OLD BUSINESS

a. Kristin has cancelled the last of the “student learning roundtables” for this month. No one came, and very few people expressed interest in attending. She’ll try for some during PPD week in the fall. She also may try to do a book group in the fall.
b. The newsletter was sent out and got a great response. Kristin will be sending them to board members as well.
c. Kristin presented a PowerPoint slide show on three possibilities for approving assessment plans. Option A was having like groups of departments and areas look at another’s department plan. Only one person would look at each plan. Option B was to have all the departments in one big “circle” where one department would look at another’s plan, but there would be no likeness between them necessarily. Option C was to have departments and areas in like groups, but to set aside one meeting each semester to look at plans as a small group. After a discussion of pros and cons, a vote was taken to try Option C. We will see how it goes, and if we need to make changes after we try it out, we will. Kristin will make the process a part of the handbook.

NEW BUSINESS

a. HLC Annual Meeting report: Kristin went to several sessions, and there was a lot of discussion on national movements with assessment and colleges’ and the HLC’s need to be proactive. Being that we, as in most higher ed. institutions at the meeting, are doing a fair job with assessment, the rumors about a No Child Left Behind style of national oversight is not eminent, but is still floating around discussions. In a discussion at the end
of the meeting, directors at HLC said they would be taking up the topic at next year’s meeting. Kristin also went to some great community college presentations, one from Waubonsee on their assessment planning, and another from Parkland College on humor in assessment. She asked both schools to come to the Assessment Fair hosted at JJC next spring.

Max reported: The session I’m impressed with is Professor Catlett’s Student Quantitative Reasoning Coefficient (SQRC). Instead of multiplying credit hours by students’ grade, as conventionally used in calculating GPA, the grades are multiplied by a content specific level. In his speech, Professor Catlett chose quantitative reasoning (or math) as an example. He correlates SQRC with ACT or SAT and predicts students’ performance. If the students’ performance exceed the expectation, than students has learned the content beyond their aptitude or vice versa.

Wayne reported: At the recent HLC annual convention, Tuesday morning’s speaker, Dr. George Kuh, from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, reiterated to the audience the future of higher education is focusing on student learning and to reporting these measures in terms of the campus’ mission, values, and desired outcomes.

As a business instructor, I see many examples of student learning. The evidence is in case studies, small group projects, and other problem solving, collaborative learning exercises. In my management and marketing classes, for example, we emphasize team work, critical thinking exercises, oral and written communications, and innovative and creative problem solving. Kuh reminded us these learning outcomes are linked to student success. Tuesday’s speaker reminded us we have a thousand flowers blooming in our classrooms and in our individual disciplines. Let us cultivate these talented people by focusing on learning activities which are linked to student success and our mission statement and vision for the students and the community. And, along the way, we can celebrate classroom accomplishments and develop and improve our assessment tools.

b. Kristin presented two “commercials” she saw during the Parkland College humor in assessment presentation. Links for these are http://216.125.249.163/524-1-Assessment-Commercial%201.wmv and http://216.125.249.163/525-1-Assessment-Commercial%202.wmv. Both were well received. Kristin suggested we make a “Smilin’ Bob” type commercial to show at PPD week in the fall to pique interest in assessment. Those in attendance thought it was a great idea as long as someone else was “Smilin’ Bob” and Kristin volunteered. Sherry offered to do the voice over. Kristin will contact media about getting going and will work on a script.

c. Kristin asked for input for planning during PPD week in the fall. Sandy asked for an assessment training session. Kristin said she’d also do the roundtables once more. Everyone thought that there was no need for a regular meeting if we were going to do all the sessions.

d. Update on Assessment Fair. Kristin reserved the theater and the bridge for the morning activities such as a reception/breakfast area and the keynote address. A subcommittee will need to be formed next fall to get planning going. Kristin will get all the materials from Waubonsee during finals week, so we’ll have a better idea about numbers and other planning then. Sunnie Hunter on the PPD committee has offered to help with this as well.

e. The budget for next year has been set, and will be going to the board for approval. There is a generous travel budget and monies for training and the fair. There is also grant money in there, so be telling others about it for next fall.
f. Next fall Kristin would like to get departments that go through accreditation together to talk about assessment planning. Nursing, culinary arts, and other areas have been out of the loop and we could all use some insight as to how to get what assessment is already being done into the reports for the SLC. She would also like to see a possible presentation come out of this since there hasn’t been much done on blending reporting with assessment that is already being done for accreditation.

We adjourned at 4:35.