

Academic Outcomes Assessment Committee
Annual Report to Faculty Senate 2006-2007
 Submitted May 29, 2007 by Janet A. White, Chairperson

Name	Representing	Term Expires
Jim Valle, Elementary Education	Education	2007
Changfu Chang, Communications	Humanities	2008
Scott Anderson, Library	Non-School	2008
Noel Heitmann, Mathematics	Science and Mathematics	2008
Chuck Geiger, Geography	Social Sciences	2007
Fred Foster-Clark, Psychology	Ex-Officio	
Adam Lawrence, Government	Ex-Officio	
Janet White, Mathematics	Chairperson	2007

Meetings:

The committee's previous normal meeting time had to be changed due to conflicts for the committee members. The committee met in the afternoons during the fall semester, and during the spring semester Wednesdays from 8-9:00am. The committee met nine times: on October 12, November 6, December 8, January 24, February 28, March 21 and 28, April 18, and May 2.

Motions forwarded to Senate:

None

Other Actions and Deliberations:

1. Selection of three General Education outcomes for assessment in 2006-07.
 - a. The committee agreed that #1 (Oral Communication), #3 (Scientific Reasoning) and #6 (Technological Competency) should be assessed this year. Work on planning for assessing #5 (Critical Reasoning) was postponed due to the plan for potentially using the CLA (Collegiate Learning Assessment) tool in the 2007-2008 academic year.
 - b. The committee continued to share information learned from the 2005-2006 assessments for General Education outcomes: #4 (Quantitative Reasoning) specifically during the fall and spring assessment luncheons.
 - c. The committee used two assessment luncheons to invite faculty input into the processes being used to gather assessment information.
2. The committee broke into subcommittees to plan and proceed with the implementation of 3 General Education Outcomes. Scientific Reasoning was assessed using a standardized assessment tool from ACT; The Oral Communication outcome was examined in light of current practices by the Communications department for scoring COMM 100 students in conjunction with voluntary submissions from faculty teaching Perspectives courses using a similar scoring guide. In order to begin the assessment of Technological Competency, it was determined that the committee would survey all academic departments across campus to learn what was already being done.
3. Most assessment data was unavailable until the conclusion of the semester. The analysis of all assessments will continue to take place in the summer months by the subcommittees to be reported back to the whole committee in the fall.

Future Plans:

Continued work on the General Education assessments will continue in the fall. This plan includes sharing the results from the 2006-2007 assessments with faculty and the General Education Review Committee and exploring new ways in which to engage faculty in discussions on assessment. Assessments from the past two academic years will be reviewed to determine what we learned in light of general education outcomes and how to proceed – specifically as it is pertinent to the next general education implementation that will need to take place. The fall assessment luncheon was well received in the past and will likely continue. The specific general education outcomes that will require the most immediate attention is Critical Reasoning (perhaps with the CLA), and following up on Technological Competency.

Thanks:

The chairperson thanks all members of the committee for their diligence and commitment throughout the year. The committee's hard work and thoughtfulness in task were greatly appreciated. Thanks also to faculty across the University for advising and assisting in the planning and collection of assessment data. Without faculty support, the efforts would have been futile.