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INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Volume 5, Issue 1

September 7, 2005

ASSESSMENT NEWS

Focused Visit Preparation Underway

Preparation for the Higher Learning Commission Focused Visit on Assessment and Strategic Planning is well underway. A draft report was completed this summer. The report addresses these two primary areas of concern in three different ways. It begins with a detailed narrative describing our progress in assessment and strategic planning since the comprehensive site visit in December, 2001. A second section responds point by point to the 2001 site team's critique. The final section identifies the relevant criteria from the current accreditation standards (the accreditation standards have changed since our 2001 review) and offers evidence of compliance.

The draft report, which can be accessed on the OIE web site under "Accreditation", has been reviewed by the AAC and will next be submitted for review to the Assessment and Strategic Planning Resource Allocation Advisory Committees. In addition, the report will be shared with the SNC Community at future division and hourly association meetings.

In addition to the draft report, the OIE web site has been reorganized to improve navigation, and all of the documentation/evidence has been identified, collected, and placed on the web page to facilitate easy access by the focused visit team.

What You Can Do to Help

- Look for your discipline/program under "Outcomes Assessment" on the OIE web site. Determine whether the documents there represent your assessment effort completely. Update or add evidence as appropriate.
- Complete any assessment work that is nearly complete. Submit any new reports to the OIE.
- Establish a reasonable/sustainable assessment cycle for your discipline. Plan to do something manageable each year.
- Review the draft Focused Visit Report and suggest additional evidence of compliance.

Remember Kristee*?

From a July email (reprinted with Kristee's permission)

"I just had to tell you. I got this Curriculum Grant from the Dean here and part of the process involved meeting with her, the Curriculum Associate Dean, and a woman in the assessment office to get together a plan on how to assess how effective my new courses/program will be. They started by saying that Spanish has done NO assessment, so that anything I do would be a step forward. Then, they started to give me the pep talk about how assessment isn't bad, it isn't evaluation, etc. I just had to stop them and explain what I did at SNC. They were all so relieved!! Later that day, the woman in assessment (who offered TONS of help with plan writing, data, surveys, focus group-incredible resources here!!!) e-mailed me to say she wanted me to know how thrilled she was to be working with a faculty member with assessment experience. So, thanks for giving me the experience."

*Dr. Kristee Boehm, Spanish, facilitated the assessment of the General Education Program before she and her family relocated to Seattle during the summer of 2004. Kristee is now teaching at the University of Washington.

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Assessment Conference Possibilities

The Higher Learning Commission, Making a Difference in Student Learning: Assessment as a Core Strategy, October 12-14, 2005, Lisle, IL.

Assn. Of Am. Colleges, Integrative Learning: Creating Opportunities to Connect, October 20-22, 2005, Denver, CO.

Natural Resource Center for First-Year Experience, 12th Natl. Conference on Students in Transition, November 6-8, 2005, Costa Mesa, CA.

The Higher Learning Commission, The Civic Engagement Imperative: Student Learning and the Public Good, November 10-12, 2005, Providence, Rhode Island.

Higher Learning Commission, The Future-Focused Organization: 2016—Ready or Not?, March 31-April 4, 2006, Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Assessment Workshop
Using Assessment Data to Close the Loop
Wednesday, September 21, 2005
3:00-4:30 p.m. Cofrin 201
Dr. Ray Zurawski, Academic Programs
Assessment Specialist

Assessment Resources
Office of Institutional Effectiveness
Main Hall, Room 219 (Phone: 403-3855)
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Web site: www.snc.edu/oie/

OIE Summer Activity

In addition to preparing for the focused visit, OIE staff were engaged in numerous important tasks over the summer. These included preparing to administer the newly revised Alumni Survey, processing summer course evaluations, beginning to identify “hallmarks of success” for Institutional Advancement, preparing a comprehensive “Retention Album”, preparing an informative presentation to new faculty entitled “Who are Our Students”, analyzing data related to mission effectiveness, organizing HERI spirituality data for the VP-Mission & Heritage as the first step toward a future comprehensive report, designing a data warehouse, producing a prototype SNC Fact Book, and preparing for a September workshop entitled, “Using Assessment Data to Close the Loop”.

Revised Alumni Survey Distributed in September

The SNC Alumni Survey was last administered to the graduating classes of 1994-1999. Substantially revised by the Assessment Committee last year, it will now include questions which better reflect the College’s Mission Statement, general education outcomes, as well as trace career paths and graduate/professional school enrollment. Questions related to student satisfaction carry over from the previous instrument. A new section will provide Alumni Relations with recent and regular information about the effectiveness of their efforts to strengthen alumni connections to St. Norbert College. In the next few weeks, the revised Alumni Survey will be sent by mail and email to all graduates of the classes of 2000-2004. The Assessment Committee will develop a plan for sampling all SNC graduating classes on a rotating basis later this year.

2005 Summer Session Evaluation Reports

All Sessions, n = 251

Year in College

Freshman	1.6%
Sophomore	22.3%
Junior	27.1%
Senior	24.9%
Other	4.0%

Reason for Taking Course

Elective	8%
General Education	64%
Minor	9%
Major	19%

Student Status

SNC Student	96.0%
Non SNC Student	4.0%

	Strongly Agree (All Courses)	Agree (All Courses)	Disagree (All Courses)	Strongly Disagree (All Courses)	Undecided (All Courses)
Instructor clearly defined the objectives of the course	74%	25%	0%	0%	1%
Instructor showed enthusiasm for the subject	87%	12%	1%	0%	0%
Instructor was well-prepared for class	81%	17%	1%	1%	0%
Instructor explained course material clearly	69%	26%	3%	1%	1%
Instructor treated students with respect	81%	16%	2%	1%	0%
Student learning assessed by appropriate methods	73%	22%	4%	0%	1%
Sufficient time to reflect on days content for next class	49%	36%	10%	3%	2%
Workload for course about right, for length of session	57%	31%	7%	2%	3%
Course appropriate for length of session week	58%	31%	8%	1%	2%

All Summer Session Courses: Overall Rating

