

Assessment Council Update & End of Year Report, March 2010

- The Assessment Council met twice in the fall semester. The Council has not met this semester, as it has been difficult to get the group together. The Assessment Council will conduct more business via email and try to get an end of the semester meeting in April. Most of us are strapped with other work and Middle States.
- The Assessment Forum was held on Friday, February 19, 2010 with 20 attendees. The topics and panels included a) Assessing General Education Programs (including the new UCC), b) Hands-on Assessment in the Arts, Teacher Education and Recreational Services and c) "Closing the Loop" using program assessment to make changes and modification in the Humanities & Social Sciences, Languages & Culture and Nursing. R. Bartone was instrumental in organizing this event. Our recommendation for the future is to replace the one-day "Assessment Forum" with multiple 1-hour seminars or workshops on specific assessment topics that would engage more faculty and staff in assessment at WPUNJ. The current format is not working to educate and inform the university.
- K. Hilberg has been working with the UCC Assessment group to develop a new assessment plan.
- The Assessment Council will be reviewing Graduate Program Assessment Plans in the next month with assistance from some of the Middle States groups. This assignment will be sent via email to the Council since it is difficult to find a common time to meet. The Assessment Council will attempt to have a meeting in April to summarize our findings.
- Updates: Assessment in Student Development is growing by leaps and bounds with the assistance of Student Voice. There are currently three benchmark studies in progress that will give us a great deal of information on Campus Safety, Campus Recreation and Campus Activities and Student Involvement.
- For the future, the Assessment Council should be more of a "helping" group or ambassadors for university assessment, not the "assessment police." The future membership should include those faculty and staff who are well-versed in assessment practices and willing to assist others who have questions concerning development of assessment plans and utilization of a variety of assessment tools. Since the Assessment Coordinators from the different Colleges are only Ad Hoc members of the Council, it would be great to have new faculty and staff be fully engaged in the assessment process as Council members.

- With the help of the Middle States report, the Assessment Council hopes to get a better picture of assessment practices at William Paterson University and find a central location to link assessment plans and other pertinent information.

Council members to date and term:

Professional Staff: Karen Hilberg '11, Chair (first year of second term)

Arts & Comm: Richard Bartone '11 (first year of second term)

Business: Martin Gritsch '10

Science & Health: Michael Peek '10

Library: M. Judy Matthew '11 (first year of second term)

Education: Bernard Jones (replaced Kelly McNeal) '10

H&SS: Brian O'Broin (replaced Mary Pat Baumgartner) '11 (first year of first term)

For your information – The link to charges on this page goes to “Budget & Planning” not “Assessment Council” <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate/faculty-senate-councils.dot>

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Hilberg
Chair, Assessment Council

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