

To: Members of the Senate

From: Jill Gross, Chair - Standing Committee on Academic Assessment and Evaluation

Date: May 19, 2010

Re: Progress Report for the May 19th Senate Meeting

At the February 24th Senate meeting a resolution was passed to establish a Standing Committee on Academic Assessment and Evaluation. The rationale for the formation of this committee was a desire that the college have a standing committee in place, to ensure preparedness for future accreditations, self-studies, and departmental reviews. And further, to offer the Hunter community a place to consider how assessment would be governed in the future; and, to keep the community apprised of trends in the area of academic assessment and evaluation.

The committee was charged with developing, implementing and reviewing policies and procedures related to academic assessment. Providing support for the implementation of said procedures and processes, while ensuring that assessment is faculty-driven. The committee was also charged with serving in an advisory capacity for all constituencies grappling with the demands of academic assessment. Lastly, the committee was asked to deliver regular reports to the Senate.

The standing committee was then formed with representatives from the divisions of the school of arts and sciences, and from each of the Schools of Education, Social Work, Nursing and Health Sciences; and ex-officio representation from the Deans of the Schools (or their designees), and the Director of Institutional Research .

The committee met for the first time on May 6th. At that meeting the committee reviewed the Middle States Accreditation report (Nov. 2009). Based on this it was agreed that the committee would support the college in the assessment portions of the Middle States monitoring report due on October 11, 2011. The relevant standards:

- Standard 1 concerns “Mission and Goals.” Amongst other things, this standard asks that the Institution’s governing body is utilized to develop and shape its programs and practices, and to evaluate its effectiveness in light of mission and goals.
- Standard 2 concerns “Planning, Resource Allocation, Institutional Renewal and Institutional Resources.” This standard asks that the College utilize the results of its assessment activities, for institutional renewal, planning and resource allocation (based on its mission and goals), develop objectives to achieve them, and support the development and change necessary to improve and to maintain institutional quality.

- Standard 7 is “Institutional Assessment.” The standard asks that the institution develop and implement an assessment process that evaluates its overall effectiveness in achieving its mission and goals and its compliance with accreditation standards.

The committee also reviewed a proposed program-level template for assessment within the Arts and Sciences, and began review of IRB documents released by the IRB Committee concerning assessment.

The committee put forward the following plan for the coming year:

- To build bridges between academic & administrative assessment committees.
- To develop long-term strategies to engage faculty/departments/programs/ and committees in academic assessment and evaluation.
- To facilitate cross-disciplinary discussions around assessment and evaluation issues.
- To meet with department chairs, program directors and departmental assessment representatives to learn about successful departmental initiatives.
- To share successful departmental initiatives with the Hunter community at Assessment Breakfasts, and in electronic forums.
- To explore the role of electronic communications to encourage faculty engagement in assessment.
- The support Department/Program/ and Committee needs to develop program-level outcomes and curriculum maps.

The committee agreed to have regularly scheduled meetings during the coming academic year in order to fulfill the parameters of its charge.