

SOC Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2008, CTL Conference Room, 3:00-4:30 pm

Assessment Week

The Assessment Week 2008 poster was unveiled. Mark suggested that the committee should acknowledge Tom Klare, the art faculty member who created this year's poster. The poster was well received by committee members.

Matt provided an update from the Office of Research and Planning on the status of section recruiting for Assessment Week. Thanks to the renewed effort by committee member to recruit more faculty, we now have close to the target number of students. Materials and packets are in progress and will go out to volunteers next week. We received more workplace skills sections to push the total to 11 sections for that assessment. This still might not be enough for results, so maybe we should put more push behind workplace skills in the future.

Ly and Tim asked if giving the assessment in their sections after the official Assessment Week was acceptable. Mark and Matt both confirmed that it was and that we are flexible with faculty scheduling for the assessment. Matt mentioned already sending materials out to one faculty to complete the assessment early.

Mark reiterated his thanks to the committee for their last ditch recruiting effort to get more assessment sections.

CCSSE

Jim and Matt discussed the status of CCSSE. About 120 sections have been randomly assigned. ORP has sent department chairs and selected faculty notifications. Some faculty have asked how they were selected to participate. A modified version of Jim's original CCSSE memo may be sent out to faculty. Matt will look into getting a sample CCSSE questionnaire to committee members.

Distance Pilot Assessment

The scientific Inquiry Assessment has been put online using WebCT. Mark discussed potentially using better programs in the future. This pilot will only have four sections, volunteered by an economics faculty. Mark noted that we want to expand as quickly as we can, but we don't want to rush into something. Students will access the pilot assessment from home. ORP is working with CTL to make sure that the online assessment is as similar to the paper assessment as possible.

Mark brought up that an error in the question number in the scientific inquiry exam was discovered and the assessment had to be re-printed. We will look at this year's results to see this error caused any problems in past years.

Naomi has been working on literature review for assessing learning in an online environment. The committee would like her to summarize results at the next meeting.

Closing the Loop

Matt discussed the use of a faculty survey at GCC that asks if they use assessment results. GCC has had good feedback with this survey and has the ultimate goal of developing best practices.

The committee discussed (lack of) internal mechanisms for using assessment results and said that an ongoing discussion of developing a way to use these results is needed. Matt suggested looking at how other processes at MCC have been institutionalized and using this to institutionalize the use of assessment results. Jim suggested having the faculty take the assessments themselves and gearing department level meetings more toward student learning and success.

ROC Grants

Mark will send ROC call for proposals tomorrow.

Technology Literacy Outcome

Mark asked the committee if we should have technology literacy as a learning outcome. The committee discussed whether this could be added to a current assessment (information literacy) or if a new assessment would need to be created. The committee discussed that many students seem to lack basic computer skills, and Derek noted that we would probably see big gains in technology literacy. Jim said that Dr. Pan is open to the discussion and a Vice President overseeing technology, and that MCC has lacked leadership in this area for nine years. Dave Harris in the business department was named as a possible contact regarding the technology literacy assessment. It was suggested that we pilot technology literacy in workplace skills.

Global Learning Cluster

Naomi indicated that Shereen is assembling a committee.

ORP Director

Jim mentioned that he plans to ask Bernie Ronan to move ahead with the process to post for the Director position in ORP.

Remaining meeting dates for spring 2008: 3/20 AS196; 4/10 CTL Conference