

University Assessment Committee
(Draft) Minutes of the Friday, September 22, 2006 Meeting
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Members present were: Val Anderson, Sarah Beck, Bob Harrold, Bonnie Klamm, Allyn Kostecki, Harriett Light, Gary Liguori, Ken Magel, Larry Peterson, J. W. Schroeder, David Scott, Bill Slinger.

- 1) The minutes from the September 8, 2006 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.
- 2) Proposed agenda and announcements:
 - A) There were no additions or updates to the proposed agenda.
 - B) Larry Peterson volunteered to serve as recorder for this meeting.
 - C) Harrold announced that letters will go out to departments whose reports are due on October 1, noting that their next option for a due date is January 31, 2007 and that no further extensions are possible.
 - D) No handouts were distributed for this meeting.
 - E) In response to Harrold's announcement a lively discussion ensued about departments whose reports are overdue. Does extending the due date remote tardiness? How do various accreditation reports such as ABET and NCATE interfere with timely assessment reports? How can we encourage change in department and college cultures which are unsympathetic to assessment? How can we provide convincing evidence and positive incentives that assessment works to skeptical departments? How can we get non-anecdotal evidence? Because assessment works best when both the department chair and the department curriculum committee are involved, how do we encourage that? How can we signal the value of assessment when it is not significantly involved in PTE? Slinger noted a Nebraska study that showed that student learning improved after faculty internalized assessment.
- 3) Update on activities of the General Education Committee:
 - A) The GEC is exploring how it can be involved in assessing general education courses in department reports. It might help departments to have examples of such assessment and clear guidelines.

4) Unfinished business:

- A) Anderson, Harrold, Klammer, and Magel volunteered to work on an updated university-wide assessment plan. Beck or Miedema will represent students.
- B) Planning for enhanced communication was postponed to a subsequent meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. with some items on the proposed agenda to be carried over to the next meeting (Friday, October 6th).