

Northern Essex Community College

Academic Affairs Leadership Team

August 15, 2013

Attendees: Bill Heineman, Sharon McDermott, Pat Demers, Chuck Phair, Diane Zold-Gross, Linda Shea, Donna Bertolino, Grace Young, Mary Farrell, Ellen Wentland, Nancy Garcia, Janice Rogers, Judy Zubrow

Unable to Attend: Mark Reinhold, Shar Wolff

Minutes Submitted by Judy Zubrow

1. Statewide Assessment

- Ellen Wentland summarized the Vision Project initiatives that focus on student learning. These occur at both the campus and system-wide level.
- In lieu of assessment by standardized testing, the system has chosen to collect and assess student products.
- AMCOA Team is the statewide group of representatives from each institution who have been assembled to build community and advance a culture of assessment on campuses.
- Dr. Bonnie Orcutt, an economist from Worcester State University, will serve as the first Director of Learning Outcomes Assessment within the Dept. of Higher Education. She will lead the work of the AMCOA Team during the 2013-2014 academic year.
- Additionally, Dr. Orcutt will lead the Massachusetts Team within the LEAP State Project. LEAP is building a state-level program of learning outcomes assessment that will permit comparisons of student work in MA with that of students in other states.
- Commissioner Richard Freeland continues his personal involvement in designing the state-level program of learning outcomes assessment and advancing the multi-state collaborative.
- President Lane Glenn will assume leadership of the Task Force on Statewide Assessment which provides oversight and guidance to the LEAP project.
- Challenges include: continued funding; IRB controversy; and union concerns.
- In 2013-2014 AMCOA will focus on regional professional development opportunities.
- Ellen intends to expand membership of the NECC Outcomes Assessment Committee.
- Bill reminded everyone that when new courses are proposed, the Academic Affairs Committee now requires the submission of course learning outcomes that are to be used in all sections of the course.

2. NexDine

- Nancy Garcia met with the representative of NexDine and found that its prices are double those of service providers the Division has been using. Using the new NexDine rates, the Health Professions Division budget will be exhausted very quickly.

- A similar story was presented by FSLAS: Actual FY13 cost for one Division meeting amounted to \$155 (for 80 participants). The projected cost using NexDine will be \$476. The FY14 FSLAS budget was determined by actual FY13 expenses and not NexDine prices.
- Everyone is encouraged to use NexDine.
- Requests to use service providers other than NexDine must be submitted to Bill prior to the event. Include a comparison of NexDine costs with the alternate provider.

3. Other Business

- Student drops for non-payment will occur on Monday, August 19, at 6:30 pm. The College is working with students who are in danger of being dropped. **Update: the drop will instead occur on Wednesday August 21st in the evening.**