

April 28, 2104

AALT

Present: Donna Bertolino, Kim Burns, Mary Farrell, Mike Hearn, Bill Heineman, Nancy Julin, Carolyn Knoepfler, Sharon McDermot, Dawna Perez, Janice Rogers, Kelly Saretsky, Kelly Sullivan, Lori Weir, Grace Young, and Judy Zubrow (see email)

AMCOA (Advancing a Massachusetts Culture of Assessment) – Kim Burns summarized latest conference, focused on real time student assessment. Keynote speaker Peggy Maki authored a book coming out on the topic. She emphasized connecting assessment to what is going on in the classroom. There is some controversy around the DHE’s vision, which may be focused on comparing dissimilar institutions across states—so there is some resistance. Bill added some insight as to how we got here, in terms of when the former Commissioner began his role he was of the mind of doing a standardized test for assessment purposes and institutions wanted to do their own assessment. Stakeholders convinced him to go that route, but the question remaining is if assessments of students’ work is consistent across the state, and across states. But the flip side is if it doesn’t work, then the Commissioner and political figures may circle back around to a standardized test.

Introduction of Kelly Saretsky, who is taking on the former roles of Ellen Grondine (strategic planning), Tom Fallon (IR), and Ellen Wentland (Assessment) at varying levels. Assessment has taken on a much more faculty/dean driven approach, which aligns to what AMCOA was advocating. AALT members all went around and spoke to Kelly about their roles and how they related to assessment and IR at NECC. Kelly also gave us a summary of her background as a Registrar, in Planning, Organizational Development and IR.

Bill – Future Leadership Structures – AMP draft is out, and there is a feedback period, but we expect to have an AMP done and published by end of May. The AMP is really just the first step in the process. We don’t have all the specific goals and timelines determined at this point. This has been done intentionally, built into the design. In the past, the work of the AMP was not the work of everybody, which this one will be. The last plan had 12 priorities and many of them fell in just a couple of areas. There was too much to do by a few people to make as much progress as we desired. This new plan will have fewer priorities, but involve more people. Some of the changes suggested in the new plan will require us to change the way we do business. As the leadership, we need to model our willingness to change. More will come at the retreat in June, but one of the topics will be leadership structures: the way we use time, duplication of efforts, time spent in goal setting and reporting on goals.

Consider this: in last five years there have been at least 3 different leadership groups in ASA. AALT is the oldest group—upper mgmt. of Academic and Student Affairs; Goal Team 2 (former ATD Core Team)—a lot of student success strategies were born and overseen in this group; and finally, the AMP Implementation Steering Committee, that had oversight of actual items in AMP and the reporting on them. Many of those initiatives were also covered in Goal Team 2, sometimes in AALT, but not all of them. If we want to really focus instead of be spread broadly...maybe we shouldn’t have 3 teams anymore. One step to avoid 3 teams has been to bring together the Strategic Goal of “Integrated Student Experience” with the AMP—they should be parallel but not duplicative. The goal should actually

be represented by ONE team. AMP and Goal Team 2 had representation from most areas of the college, whereas AALT is narrower and has charges to deal with ongoing operational/academic issues (contracts, space, course cancellations, etc.) that won't change with AMP goal changes or the more fluid participant lists.

AALT members acknowledge there are still needs that should be addressed by deans/assistant deans in a meeting but maybe not as frequently as every two weeks. The name AALT suggests something that maybe closed or create a sense of "those members of the administration". Most members still feel a need to meet for lots of good reasons, but Bill pointed out that even the reasons folks want to keep AALT aren't necessarily met to a great degree with our current configuration.

Keep thinking about the three groups, how we can get investment from across the college while addressing the needs this group states.

Sharon: Spurk renovation moves: four classrooms have been moved to B building. The rooms don't have clocks, so those will be added. An issue with over-bright lights, and some room re-arrangement is necessary. The screen goes very low, so students in middle/back rows can't see bottom of screen. Student Senate member asked about glass doors and if they were bullet proof. No, they are not, but shades will be installed so that they can be closed if desired.

LRW, furniture on order, and Opportunity Works will take on a few more classes. Coordinating Opportunity Works' construction with our IT/NOC people will be helpful so that deans understand how we will need to work with technology/computer drops over there. Talk about shuttle plans and a sidewalk to make things easier. Also, we all should try to keep schedules in Haverhill open the first week or so of class to help direct students. Kim Burns asked if we can get "Ask Me" buttons. This idea has come up lots of times in past six or more years. It's an easy way to identify staff/faculty to new students as a caring, smiling helpful person to approach with questions.