

Minutes of HOAP Committee

12/05/2012

Attending: Judi Ciampi, Joanna Fortna, Nancy Garcia, Rick Lizotte, Habib Maagoul, Gail Stuart, Jim Sullivan, Suzanne Van Wert, Ellen Wentland

Discussion: The results of our Information Literacy assessment in SP12 were disseminated at all division meetings in November by members of the committee. At the same time, the rubric for Quantitative Reasoning was distributed as a way to inform and encourage faculty to participate in the institutional assessment of QR in SP13.

The upcoming QR assessment will employ the same process used last year: identify students with 45 – 59 credits, contact their instructors, and then inquire about whether an appropriate assignment will be collected. It was acknowledged that it may be difficult to find classes which include QR assignments. The committee discussed whether or not an assignment needed to address every category on the rubric. Perhaps identified faculty who are willing and able to participate could indicate which QR skills they require so that only those items would be evaluated. One problem revealed by past assessments is the inability to rate certain criteria because raters cannot tell whether students were even asked to perform a certain skill or whether they were unable to perform the skill. Having faculty identify selected QR skills may increase the pool of products and decrease the use of “UTR” (Unable to Rate) in assessments. It would also give the college an idea of which aspects of QR are missing or need support throughout the curriculum. It was suggested that in addition to the QR rubric, the email sent to recruit faculty participation should name the types of products that might be appropriate (ie., lab reports, PSY or SOC assignments, CRJ research papers) and include a good sample QR assignment that is easily adapted across the curriculum.

This spring the DHE will be piloting a method of collecting information about student performance across the state college and university system. Rather than using a standardized test, the AAC&U’s VALUE rubrics will be used to evaluate products collected from selected institutions. Quantitative Reasoning, Critical Thinking, and Writing will be assessed. Products from the selected colleges will be forwarded to a central location where trainers (who have been trained together) will help raters norm and evaluate products scrubbed of identifiers. Participating colleges have not been chosen, but Northern Essex is further along in college-wide assessment than many of the other state-supported colleges, so it is quite possible we will be asked to forward 25 student products in each of the categories.