Minutes of Core Review Committee  
November 4, 2008


Chairman Whitman called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. The minutes of October 7, 2008 were approved as written.

Old Business: Skill Areas Assessment:

Quantitative Reasoning: Dr. Whitman reported the he and Dr. Trujillo have drafted a rubric for assessing this skill area; this will be distributed to CRC members electronically.

Computer Literacy: Dr. Whitman and Dr. Bohan will work on this rubric for next time.

Oral Communication: Dr. Morrison presented a rubric for this skill area that she developed in consultation with Dr. Wenger and Dr. Mark Stine. The CRC members agreed that we do not need an overall score on the rubric, just a score on the three skills being assessed. Dr. Morrison will distribute a revised document electronically. After discussing whether we should be assessing COM 101 speeches, videotaped capstone or sophomore year presentations in different majors, and/or FYF presentations, there was general agreement that some CRC members would attend COM 101 classes this semester and assess student presentations in person. Dr. Wenger will contact Dr. Stine to obtain a schedule of appropriate classes. (This means we will not have videos as artifacts, but we will include the assignment, any PowerPoints or other artifacts associated with the presentations.)

Other Business:

Communication. Members discussed the need for clear communication (in general) and specifically from the CRC to the deans; apparently there has been some concern over lack of such communication. Dr. Flint emphasized that the deans stand ready to help the CRC in their work and suggested that Dean Fields and Bruns be invited to attend CRC meetings.

Dr. Whitman noted that he is meeting with the Provost on Nov. 5 and he will discuss communication and other issues. He emphasized that there is a perception among the faculty that because Dr. Flint attends CRC meetings that the assessment is being run by the administration because of Middle States. We need to communicate clearly that this is a faculty-run process. Dr. Flint concurred; she recommended that CRC members serve as liaisons to their departments to keep communication open.

Distribution Areas Assessment: Dr. Whitman announced that program reviews are now due on January 8, 2009. These reports should contain data that the CRC can extract for assessment of distribution areas.
MAPP: Dr. Morrison distributed materials on MAPP (Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress) testing. Dr. Morrison, Dr. Flint and Dr. Bohan (in consultation with Dr. Mary Kropiewnicki) recommended that the forty-minute version of the test be administered to a random sampling of students from each class year, with incentives (movie tickets, drawing for I-Pod) offered to encourage student participation. MAPP tests can be customized; we are not recommending this for the first round of testing, although this is an option for the future.

Dr. Whitman suggested (and members concurred) that MAPP tests be administered in Spring 2009 since there is money budgeted for this purpose. It was further agreed that fifty students will be randomly selected from each class (first year, sophomore, junior, senior) and that the test will be given online in computer labs. The CRC will ask Brian Bogart to generate the lists of students who will be invited to take the tests.

Workshops on Procedure for Submitting Artifacts: Dr. Flint and Dr. Bohan will conduct workshops to train people on how to submit artifacts electronically. There will probably be a short in-person sessions as well as video podcasts; the sessions will be held in mid-November.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next CRC meeting is Thursday, November 13.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Wenger