

The Assessment Times



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

APRIL, 2005

From the Chair

Jen Asimow

Dear All,

We are back in full swing after the hiatus. The committee has regrouped and is again meeting on Wednesdays from 3-4PM in Room 1030. Remember, you do not have to be a committee member to attend meetings. If you would like to come and listen, or find out what we are up to, please feel free to stop by.

We have completed the administration of the CCSSE (Community College Survey of Student Engagement). 155 sections were randomly chosen by CCSSE and, to date, I have received 151 packets. Bravo! And thank you for all of your participation. The work of the assessment committee cannot happen

without your continued support.

We are still administering the CCFSSSE (Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement). Most full and part-time faculty were invited to take the survey via the web. If you think that you received this invitation, but have not yet participated, contact your department's assessment committee member to find out how to log on and complete the survey.

The assessment committee has also been busy interpreting the data results from our Fall assessment, SAILS. Dave Richardson and Jashed Fahkrid-Deen have written a comprehensive synopsis of HWC's results. This report will be instrumental in designing a workshop for faculty

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during fall registration. Thank you to both of them for their hard work.

The assessment calendar is nearly complete. It will soon be available for viewing on the Faculty Resource page of the HWC website. The calendar will include most assessment activities planned until 2008.

Until Next Month,

Jen ☺

Committee Meeting Highlights

- The committee began discussing a tool to measure "Diversity" at HWC. We are looking at climate surveys as a possible means of assessing this at HWC.
- The committee was asked to encourage all
- faculty members in their departments to complete the CCFSSSE.
- The committee approved "August 25, 2005" as the assessment workshop day for the fall semester.
- The committee is looking

at the A.C.T.'s Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) as a possible assessment tool for HWC. The test offers modules in reading, writing, math, science and critical thinking.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Keenan Andrews | Dean |
| Jen Asimow | CD |
| Saundra Banyard | Dean |
| George Bickford | Dean |
| Sydney Daniels | Thea |
| Sammie Dortch | SW |
| Lynnel Kiely | SS |
| Camelia Salajejan | Math |
| Helene Gabelnick | Chem |
| Luke Ishihara | ESL |
| Anita Kelley | CIS |
| Cecilia Lopez | VP |
| Denise Maduli-Williams | ESL |
| Anna Blum | Dean |
| Willard Moody | Eng |
| Carrie Nepstad | CD |
| Celia Perez | Lib |
| Dana Perry | Chem |
| Brandon Taylor | CDL |

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|-----------------|-----|
| Sangha Saha | Bio |
| Armen Sarrafian | Art |
| Glenn Weller | CIS |

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Good Assessment Informs Good Teaching Practice



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Assessment is fun.... No, really!

By Carrie Nepstad

I have been on the Assessment Committee now for almost two years and this has been my mantra. I know what you're thinking and it's true – I am a nerd. But that's a different story. I really do think it's fun. To me, thinking about how students learn and ways of supporting that learning *is* fun and that is the whole point of assessment. Sure, as a committee member there is a lot of wading through data and thinking about various tools like the CCSSEE survey of student engagement, which was just administered during this most recent Assessment Week. But that part is just a piece of what we do. Just like grading is something we all do and yet we know it doesn't tell us everything about where our students are at with a particular concept or skill.

We have to make decisions about how we can get at what we want to know about student learning and then see what we can do about it. There is a whole field of information out there to help us frame that thinking and give us models to study. And, here, we have an Assessment Committee run by faculty who spend one hour every Wednesday afternoon looking at the big picture of assessment. In two years I have rarely missed a meeting. Yes, the cookies and coffee are good incentive and of course there is the fact that we never go over one hour. But mainly, I like it because I get to have discussions with colleagues involving the most important thing that we take part in, the teaching and learning process.

True, we have spent a bit of time focusing on big tests and surveys. It's important to keep in mind that those measures administered to a representative sample of the student body here at HWC will give us some ideas of where we stand overall on things like Critical Thinking, Information Literacy and the upcoming, Diversity. But those results are just one piece of the puzzle. The idea is that we are really thinking about what is happening in our own classrooms and exploring interesting ways to get at those things, which are important to us. Now, that's fun stuff!

Dates To Remember

April 20, 2005—Assessment Meeting 3-4PM RM. 1030
April 27, 2005—Assessment Meeting 3-4PM RM. 1030
May 4, 2005—Assessment Meeting 3-4PM RM. 1030
May 11, 2005—Assessment Meeting 3-4PM RM. 1030
May 18, 2005—Assessment Meeting 3-4PM RM. 1030

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

- www.diversityweb.org

August 25, 2005 - All-faculty Assessment Workshops

