

The Assessment Times



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

MAY, 2005

From the Chair

Jen Asimow

Dear All,

As the academic year 2004-2005 comes to a halt, I can't help but feel proud of all of the hard work that the Assessment Committee has done this year. Although, we had a 10 week break, we were still able to accomplish many of our goals. I would like to thank all of the members of the committee (names are listed over there ☺) who have worked tirelessly, without complaint over the past 10 months.

I would also like to thank all of the administrators and support

staff who have taken an active interest in the work of the Assessment Committee. Your support is much appreciated.

Our work is never over. We are in the process of getting ready for next years assessment activities which will begin with an exciting day of workshops on August 25, 2005. There will be an interactive workshop on Information Literacy, a short presentation on course design and approval as well as a workshop designed around the results from CCSSE. See



attached flyer.

During Assessment Week, fall 2005, we plan to conduct a climate survey on Diversity issues on campus as well as administering the Critical Thinking test once again. More details to follow in the fall.

Until Next Year,

Jen ☺

Committee Meeting Highlights

- The committee has been adapting and creating a Diversity Climate Survey.
- The committee is reviewing our website needs. It was decided that all information be kept open to the public except for committee agendas and minutes.
- The committee has approved a definition of "human diversity".
- The committee has purchased a copy of the HLC's Annual meeting on CD-ROM. These will be in the library. See Celia Lopez for more details.
- The committee has approved the Assessment Calendar until 2008.
- The committee has conducted its annual review of the committee charge as well as a reelection of its officers.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Keenan Andrews	Dean
Jen Asimow	CD
Saundra Banyard	Dean
George Bickford	Dean
Sydney Daniels	Thea
Sammie Dortch	SW
Lynnel Kiely	SS
Camelia Salajeau	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

Sangha Saha	Bio
Armen Sarrafian	Art
Glenn Weller	CIS

Assessment Committee Chairs

Jennifer G. Asimow, Chair
Glenn Weller, Co-Chair

Phone: 312-553-3087
Fax: 312-553-5703
Email: jasimow@ccc.edu

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Harold Washington College
30 E. Lake St.
Chicago, IL 60601

Hello to everyone who has time to read this message,

My name is Ivanhoe Tejada and I work with Jen in the Applied Science Department. We are office "buddies" and when our schedules permit, we sit and talk about our college and our students. One thing led to another and here I am, a faculty member from the outside looking into the world of the assessment committee at HWC. I would like to thank Jen for providing me with the opportunity to address my views regarding assessment in this newsletter.

This is what I initially see regarding the committee's work this semester. Our office has been consumed with "assessment calendars", "assessment surveys" and "assessment literature". Lately I'm still finding sharpened and unsharpened "assessment pencils" from the packages that were distributed a few weeks ago.

This is how the committee's work has affected me up to this point. Our college has been awakened from a state of conformity and is now addressing issues that would otherwise be overlooked in our busy schedules. As defined by Lorin Anderson in Classroom Assessment, assessment is "the process of gathering and interpreting information to aid in classroom decision making". I see the work done by the committee and realize that this process will take time. I realize that no one from the committee is policing my teaching skills. The committee is gathering information to prepare us as a faculty to better meet the needs of our students. For this I am grateful. We are a multi-cultural environment (wow, big news) and I believe that no one faculty member is ever prepared to meet the educational needs of our diverse student body. I welcome the opportunity to use information gathered by the surveys to reshape and redefine my pedagogy.

I will continue to support the work of this committee. I will continue to accept survey packages and follow the attached instructions. I will do ONE more task if necessary because it's not about the teacher, or the student, it's about us, the college. This is how I participate in assessment at HWC. I am currently unable to attend meetings but I have made it perfectly clear to Jen that if she were to move the weekly meetings to accommodate my class schedule, I would join the committee. I would even buy her a pencil sharpener.

"If teachers are not critically conscious, if they are not awake to their own values and commitments (and to the conditions working upon them), if they are not personally engaged with their subject matter and the world around, I do not see how they can initiate the young into critical questioning or the moral life"

Dates to Remember

August 25, 2005 - All-faculty Assessment Workshops

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

- <http://occrl.ed.uiuc.edu>

Happy Summer!

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**"Thank you for calling. Please leave a message.
In case I forget to check my messages, please
send your message as an audio file to my e-mail,
then send me a fax to remind me to check my
e-mail, then call back to remind me to
check my fax."**