

Manoa Assessment Committee (MAC) Meeting Minutes
November 09, 2011, 1:30 PM, Hawaii Hall

Meeting started at ~1:30 PM, with following participants:

Committee Members

Violet Harada
Peter Hoffmann
Daniel Jenkins
Adam Pang
Beth Pateman
Lilia Santiago (Cmt. Chair)
Amy Schiffner

Ex-Officio & Invited Guests

Tom Conway (Senate Executive Cmt)
Kyle Kurashima (ASUH Rep.)
Marlene Lowe (Assessment Office)
Monica Stitt-Bergh (Assessment Office)
Kristin Pauka (GSA Rep.)

- Approval of agenda (approved with no discussion)
 - Approval of minutes (approved with no discussion).
 - Issues related to minutes
- Report from Critical Thinking Working Group (Peter, Violet, and Adam)
 - i) Peter reported on the first meeting, where participants introduced themselves and described their respective stakes in assessment. Two faculty members have reportedly taken the lead in developing a process for assessing UHM students' critical thinking skills, addressing 12 separate facets of which 8 are generally regarded as being universally accepted/ needed across disciplines. This new effort is part of an NSF funded project at improving critical thinking skills of students.
 - ii) Violet reported on the second meeting, where the group focused on the "Critical Thinking Assessment Test" (CAT) being developed at Tennessee Tech as a potential national standard for assessing critical thinking (pre and post University training).
 - iii) Monica indicated that "critical thinking" has yet to even be successfully defined, and questioned whether CAT is truly a comprehensive assessment of critical thinking. Committed to sending out more information on CAT and the group developing it.
 - iv) General discussion ensued; generally it was noted that many students at UHM are taught to memorize facts and reproduce them for multiple choice style exams, and there is a need for deeper, more analytical approach to thinking about information. Beth noted that public schools are grading language arts (e.g. essays) by machine, which fail to recognize critical thinking and rank writing by use of "buzzwords".
- MAC volunteers were solicited by Deborah Halbert (via Lilia Santiago) to serve on the "Institutional Learning Objectives" committee (Beth and Amy volunteered).
 - Report by DFIW course (those with high rates of 'D', 'F',

Incomplete, and Withdraw grades) sub-committee. No follow up was noted by the secretary.

- Presentation on the history, nature and role of assessment at UHM (Marlene with input from Monica- for the benefit of MAC to better understand the role of assessment, and the issues charged to the committee) The slide presentation can be viewed online on MAC Laulima Resources..
- Report on the administrative retreat of October 12 (Peter)
 - It was reported that administrators were at least initially open to the concept of greater faculty input into governance
 - Faculty representatives urged that faculty be more engaged in making administrative decisions (e.g., regarding buildings, facilities, programs, and policy), as they are the closest and most knowledgeable about how these issues affect students.
- Report on the October 18 workshop on the Lumina Foundation Degree Qualifications and WASC assessment.
 - Lumina Foundation is a national effort to express outcomes or pillars of broad general education which should be demonstrated by every graduating University student nationwide.
 - WASC is moving towards incorporating these expectations for it's member institutions for continued accreditation.
 - Monica is taking initiative to pilot concepts from Lumina Foundation at UH, to be able to provide feedback/ input as to how pillars should be shaped.
- Other items (none noted)...
 - Scheduling of next meeting: it was decided to not have a meeting in December (since there would be little done between then and January). Next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 1:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at ~2:40 PM.