

Lewis
F.H.I

Gisch, Patty

From: Cox, Stephen
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2009 11:16 AM
To: Gisch, Patty; River, Sandy
Cc: Paton, Valerie
Subject: Assessment committee

Hi Sandy - please accept this email as my report from the University Assessment committee. I have been awaiting official minutes from the meeting, but they will not be approved until our next meeting so I thought I would go ahead and forward this on. Feel free to forward this on to the entire Senate if you feel it is appropriate.

Regards

Stephen

ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The first meeting of the University assessment committee was conducted on 26 March. This report will highlight important aspects of the discussion that is relevant to the faculty senate and give a brief synopsis of the meeting. Minutes of the meeting will be forwarded once they are accepted by the committee.

Synopsis:

The Provost is establishing the committee to increase communication between the administration and faculty on topics related to assessment. In addition, the committee will be making recommendations on university-wide strategies for effectively using assessment. The committee is currently drafting a mission statement.

Discussion Highlights:

The Office of Planning and Assessment recognizes that assessment must be driven by and centered on faculty. As a result, faculty must be given the responsibility, authority, and continuing resources to be able to effectively accomplish assessment. Moreover, assessment is itself a research endeavor. The OPA will provide a \$1000 stipend to any faculty member who wishes to present assessment results at a national conference.

SACS accreditation, and, as a result, assessment issues, are pre-requisites for receiving federal funding. A goal at TTU is to implement consistent, comprehensive, and systematic assessment procedures and to move away from a model that "ramps up" and "ramps down" assessment activities around accreditation review cycles. Accreditation review is now mandated to occur every 5 years, instead of 10 years.

Details about two new software solutions (TracDAT - aimed at program level assessment, and Digital Measures - aimed at faculty reporting and strategic planning) will be forthcoming. These tools should facilitate assessment.

Dr. Paton reaffirmed her desire to discuss relevant issues directly with the Faculty Senate as often as requested. Open communication is a top priority.