

Voluntary System of Accountability Student Learning Outcomes Task Force

Summary Note #3: January 25, 2008

Attending: Roberta Allen (Business Information Systems), Benjamin Brown (student), Marcia Feters, chair (Education), Sandra Glista (Speech Pathology and Audiology), Jonathan Pugh (Institutional Effectiveness), David Reinhold (Chemistry), Vladimir Risukhin (Aviation), Pam Rooney (Business Information Systems), Zoann Snyder (Sociology), Thomas Swarz (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering) **Absent:** Heidi Egloff (student), Kevin Knutson (Arts and Sciences), Lisa Kruse (Sociology), Fred Sitkins (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering), Joyce Walker (English)

Feters called the meeting to order at 10 A.M.

1. Approval of **Summary Note #2** (12.07.07): Task force approved note as written.
2. December 12 **CLA Web seminar:**
 - Scope of test meets criteria.
 - Slideshow has been posted to Vista.
 - Pugh will contact CAE to find out how to improve reviewers' access to CLA test.
3. **First impressions:**
 - CAAP: Task force will need to determine whether or not students find CAAP too easy.
 - MAPP: Task force has concerns about how well Multiple Choice can assess writing.
 - CLA:
 - Online only.
 - Sample size is a University decision.
4. Presentations to, and likely responses from, **campus constituents:**
 - Some faculty worry that assessment findings might be “used against” the University, particularly if WMU chooses the same instrument as a peer institution.
 - How can such a small sample of students provide meaningful data?
 - Authentic assessment is illustrated by numbers of graduates entering the professional community in their respective fields.
 - None of the tests is content-based.
 - Task force charge:
 - Some questions raised at comment sessions will not be pertinent to charge.
 - Decision has already been made to implement VSA, of which the institution's choice of assessment instrument is a relatively small, though significant, part.
 - While the task force is sympathetic to concerns about the VSA program and will gather *all* feedback associated with student learning outcomes, “buy-in” by campus constituents is not its responsibility.
5. Suggested **reviewing criteria:**
 - Testing fatigue: Students are more likely to take a shorter exam.
 - Ease of use: Particularly important for an online exam.
 - Ease of implementation:
 - Security of exams is crucial.

- How will the University persuade students to give up a freshman class to take the test? In the case of C-BASE and California, both short tests, only a small number of students were required from each class.
 - Measurement of higher-order reasoning skills.
 - Cost: CLA is most expensive.
 - Whether or not the test is criterion-referenced.
6. **Next meeting:** Monday, February 4, 4 P.M. to 5:30 P.M., Room 3150, Schneider Hall:
- Those unable to attend are asked to send their comments to Feters or Pugh beforehand.
 - Sample tests must be returned to Feters prior to meeting.
 - Handout (to be prepared by Feters and e-mailed to task force prior to meetings with constituent groups) will include:
 - Overview of VSA
 - Task force charge
 - Task force membership
 - Table of feedback criteria

Feters adjourned the meeting at 10:21 A.M.