

# Voluntary System of Accountability Student Learning Outcomes Task Force

## Summary Note #5: April 11, 2008

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

Feters called the meeting to order at approx. 3 P.M.

1. Review of **summary notes #3** (1.25.08) and **#4** (2.04.08): Both notes were approved as written.
2. **Update:**
  - Faculty Senate Executive Board has advised that the task force address Faculty Senate after white paper is complete and do so in context of VSA as a whole.
  - WMU's adoption of VSA was formally announced at April 3 Faculty Senate meeting.
  - April 7 WMU News item on University's launch of College Portrait:
    - Questions have been raised by campus constituents, particularly in regard to student learning outcomes.
    - Most questions concern cost and implementation, neither of which is part of task force charge.
  - Eileen Evans, vice provost for institutional effectiveness, will present on VSA at May 1 Faculty Senate meeting. Feters, Pugh, and Tracy Pattok of Student Academic and Institutional Research will attend.
3. Review of **VSA SLO Task Force Recommendation** (Version 2) and **White Paper Outline:**

### Version 2:

- Editing of recommendation (page 7):
  - Following sentence to be amended: "This instrument has the potential to ... be able to inform general education and programmatic decisions."
  - Revision to include following text (or similar) from page 1: "VSA SLO assessment data ... will be used as one measure to assess general education—this assessment is not intended to replace or fulfill program and departmental assessment policies."

### White Paper Outline:

- Concerns raised by constituent groups to be listed prior to final recommendation.
- One- or two-page summary to be included.
- Most tables and charts to be moved to appendix.
- Recommendation will focus on rigor of CLA test, and on fact that neither writing skills nor critical thinking is assessed using multiple choice.
- Other Michigan adopters:
  - To date, other early VSA adopters are Michigan Tech, Michigan State, and Central Michigan.
  - Trio represents WMU's major instate competition.
  - Central is proceeding with CLA.
- Feedback from campus constituents:
  - Concerns are likely to focus on assessment instrument.
  - White paper will include reminder that VSA timetable allows WMU four years in which to report student learning outcomes.

- Implementation issues will include intersection of CLA with existing writing-assessment initiatives (e.g., WMU baccalaureate writing criteria).

4. **Next steps:**

- Feters will redraft white paper in narrative form and circulate new version(s) to task force via e-mail.
- Task force is asked to use Track Changes feature of Microsoft Word to edit draft(s).
- Feters will share preliminary version with Evans on April 28.
- Following feedback from Faculty Senate on May 1, Feters will present final edited version to Evans.
- Feters thanked the members of the task force for their hard work; task force reciprocated.

Feters adjourned the meeting at approx. 3:30 P.M.