

memo



Date: 4/13/12
To: College Academic Senate
From: Curriculum Review Committee
RE: Request to Expand Pilot of New Curriculum/Student Learning Review Process

The Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) is piloting the new curriculum/student learning review process and is requesting the pilot be expanded to six academic units (disciplines and programs) for the 2012-2013 academic year. The request for expansion is based on the feedback the committee has received thus far.

For this 2011-2012 academic year, two academic units are piloting the new curriculum/student learning review process. During the April 6, 2012 CRC meeting, faculty reviewers, a representative from institutional research and the director of the office of assessment were present to provide feedback on the new process. Some of the feedback comments were:

- The Philosophy faculty reviewers received an overwhelming number of responses from students. Thus for large stakeholder groups such as students, the majority of the survey questions need to be rewritten using a Likert scale and analyzed using quantitative methods as opposed to the current open ended questions which require qualitative methods of analyses. A similar process will be done for all stakeholder groups: full time and adjunct teaching faculty, counseling and academic support faculty/staff, academic administrators, current students, former students, employers, advisory committees, and transfer institutions.
- The faculty reviewers suggested that survey questions be rewritten using terminology familiar to the general public. Students were not familiar with the terminology “general education outcomes” so they interpreted the question as a query about the course syllabus.
- The faculty reviewers suggested that the review process encourage two faculty members to work as reviewers, such as was the case with the Philosophy discipline. Having a pair of faculty members conduct the review and share data with other faculty members gave the reviewers a sense of solidarity.
- Faculty reviewers suggested that they have a CRC member as a mentor through the review process. This aspect of the review process was not implemented during the first round of piloting but would certainly be implemented during the second round.
- Committee members are awaiting the development of the college wide academic master plan and would like to align the new review process with the new academic master plan.
- Institutional research and the Office of Assessment need additional time to make the review process completely electronic, so taking on the desired 20 academic units per year is not feasible at this time.