

**Student Affairs Assessment Council
Minutes
August 6, 2008**

Attendance and favorite vacation spot if you have one:

Angi Baxter—camping in the mountains	Jo Alexander—Yellow Bottom
Edie Blakley—Hawaii	Rebecca Sanderson—Lopez Island
Michele Ribeiro	Larry Roper—San Francisco
Linda Reid—Paris	Adry Clark—Paris
Eric Hansen—Cannon Beach	Kami Hammerschmith--Switzerland
Jennifer Viña—Europe	Pat Ketcham—Belize
Tina Clawson—Backpacking—high mountain lakes	Jodi Nelson

Instructions for Reporting Assessment Work and the 2008-2009 Assessment Plan

Rebecca distributed an announcement for assessment contacts and department heads regarding reporting of assessment reports (2007-2008) and assessment plans (2008-2009). The group read through the announcement and agreed that this should go out. Rebecca will send this out via email this week.

Kim Vanderlinden from StudentVoice to visit OSU in September

Rebecca asked the council if September 12 worked for a meeting with Kim and the council. This way if there are questions about Student Voice folks could ask, give feedback, etc. The Council indicated that September 12 would work fine. Rebecca will set this up and reserve a room for the meeting.

Discussion with Larry

- 1. LEAP learning areas and Student Affairs learning areas and how we intend to proceed and focus our efforts this year.** Rebecca reported our plans for working with learning outcomes and developing some shared methodologies and outcomes for use by units. Larry reminded us that we also need to remember to look at how we might measure learning with episodic users as well. In essence there are users who we have a great deal of contact with and thus could expect more substantive learning but there are users who are episodic and what are they learning from us. There are also users who use a service but in a very individualized way—like in counseling, DAS, or student health—what are they learning and how do our methods for assessing this have to differ from other kinds of users. The council discussed these ideas and will incorporate this into our work this year.
- 2. Creating position papers—what are those and how do we write one? What topics does he have in mind?** Larry indicated that there are no “standard” formats for white papers or position papers. He did say that he thought the best one he ever read was done by Gary Pavela on free association. It was making a case for the conversation about the difference in commitment, etc. when students choose to associate rather than being forced or required to do so. He said that a white paper is like an extended editorial that gives a context and then provides a perspective or asks questions or that makes a case for the need for or value of a certain kind of conversation or for setting a certain direction. As we talked about this more, Larry said that he believed that it was time for a recalibration of our organization around assessment.

This idea was discussed at length with a suggestion that the student affairs leadership team (SALT) devote one of their all day meetings to this topic. We have moved assessment into

a structure for support, learning, and reporting. We have a structure to support the work of assessment. We need to get everyone up to the line so that they don't feel so far behind that they further disengage. We, the Assessment Council, Larry, department leadership need to think about and talk about how to stimulate our system.

Larry's idea is to elevate the conversation to the SALT meeting with the expectation about assessment. What are the things we are holding each other accountable for as department heads? Jodi suggested that the December 3 SALT meeting might be a good time to do this conversation.

Larry asked that the Assessment Council think about how we make a case for having this conversation—what are the compelling reasons—what is a compelling introduction or context for the conversation? We want to attract those who have not engaged by showing possibilities and we want to deepen the engagement of others by showing deepen possibilities. He asked us to devote at least a meeting to thinking about and talking about how to approach this conversation. He also said that he would be willing to meet with us again this fall.

An idea that emerged near the end of the meeting was to think about framing the conversation in terms of Greater Expectations, Our Students Best Work, Learning Reconsidered, mission of a Land Grant University in terms of our role as educators in Student Affairs.

Larry reported that he believed that our data now will be very important in the next 4-5 years as baseline data. With the advent of the INTO program we will need to know the impact on the quality of student life and the impact on the student community.

The conversation is beginning and the Council will need to continue with our conversation about how to make our case for the need for elevating the discussion at the SALT meeting and how the day needs to be structured.

Reminder: September training on Student Voice

September 3, 1-3pm in the Academic Success Center Computer lab—Waldo Hall

New Office

Stop by and see what we are up to!

Physical address: 104 Poling Hall (in UHDS Administrative Offices section of Poling)

Mailing address is: 102 Buxton Hall

Tina suggested that we hold the next meeting in the Poling Hall conference room and have a cake. That way we can see Rebecca's new space and also eat cake!! The group agreed that this was a good idea. So-o-o-o take note of the meeting location change for September 10.

Next Meeting

**September 10, 2008
Poling Hall Conference Room
9-10:30am**