

Assessment Retreat – May 2014
Committee Report: Advocates for Scholarly Teaching (AST)

Accomplishments of the AST - 2013-14

At the directive of the Provost and in cooperation with the University Teaching Council (UTC), the AST operated as a task force of the UTC to draft a proposal for aligning course-level learning objectives across the institution with Baccalaureate Experience learning objectives. The proposal was presented to the Provost and the UTC on March 10, 2014. While the desire for alignments is still recognized, it was determined that in light of the various other campus-wide initiatives of the Office of Assessment (e.g. NMSU's Quality Initiative focusing on student writing, and the implementation of WEAVE assessment reporting software), an additional initiative would be overwhelming at this time. Therefore implementation of the alignment initiative has been postponed.

Did a review of the AST's mission, goals, and objectives find they were in alignment with the goals and objectives of the Office of Assessment?

The AST reviewed the mission goals and objectives of the committee, and found them to be in need of further clarification. As the committee continues this effort in the coming year, they will also consider alignment with the Office of Assessment goals and objectives. The AST will also carefully consider its unique role and the potential for duplication of effort with the Teaching Academy as it explores the following ideas/options.

Discussion notes on revised mission and objectives:

- Possible revised mission: Faculty network for Scholarly Teaching
- Focus on developing a web interface for faculty to document teaching
- Network for feedback and dialog

Discussion on webpage development

All based on demonstrating effective teaching

- List of faculty in need of a partner for reviewing course materials
- List of acceptable ways to demonstrate teaching effectiveness

Teaching Academy classes on scholarly teaching for Digital Measures

- Examples of good teaching
- Peer visits to classes to review/support teaching (mentorship)

“One Stop Shop for Demonstrating Teaching Effectiveness”

- Create an active directory of peers
- Ability to dialog and contact peers
- Peer Review Network
 - Needs: tools, incentives, promotion
- Questions
 - How can we assess impact on students & student learning?

- Objective tools for helping faculty create/measure
- Strategies for how to implement “evidence of teaching effectiveness

Did the work of the AST over the past year align with the mission, goals, and objectives? How or how not? Is there any evidence the committee made progress toward, or met any of its goals/objectives?

Yes, the initiative was aligned with the current mission, goals & objectives. Because of the postponement of the initiative, no substantial progress was realized.

Are there any areas in which the AST can work toward improved practice and/or effectiveness? Is there a particular goal/objective on which the committee should focus in the coming year? If so, which one(s) and why?

Better define the mission/ vision of the committee.

How can the AST support NMSU’s focus on student writing (Quality Initiative: *Expert Insider Prose: Developing Students’ Disciplinary Expertise in Writing*)?

Build on Peer Review Network (piloted by AST 2012-13) - Indirectly supports this effort through development of reflection tools about writing (writing to learn & learning to write) in courses.

- Provide ideas and ways to incorporate writing into courses
- Resources for documenting *how* to implement writing in courses, and how to assess learning

What role should committee members play in working toward goals/objectives and support of the Quality Initiative in 2014-15?

The AST will

- Be the body that provides support for “evidence of teaching effectiveness” using the Peer Review Network (PRN) and other tools for demonstrating scholarly teaching.
- Support and teach about other ways to demonstrate teaching effectiveness.
- Facilitate faculty dialog on teaching
- Provide examples for faculty

Project Focus 2014-15

Outcome 1: Teaching Network website

Tasks

- Identify and post good examples of evidence of scholarly teaching (10/15/2014)

- Develop architecture

Outcome 2: Peer Review Network (PRN)

Tasks

- Writing assignments for Canvas (8/1/2014)
- Canvas Administrator (invite to course for PRN as instructor)

Outcome 3: Reflection

Tasks

- Outline tasks & structure for reflection (8/1/2014)

Date/Resource Requests for 2014-15 Academic Calendar

- Assistance w/ marketing & materials for outreach
- Teaching Academy event – Introduction to PRN & Teaching Network – Early September, 120 minutes
- Teaching Academy event “How to provide evidence for effective teaching”– 2 weeks before DM reports due, 120 minutes, Jim Kroger
- Teaching Academy event – follow up for PRN participants – 1 week before end of semester, 120 minutes
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Regular Monthly Meetings: Monthly for 60 minutes, days & times TBD through doodle poll

Preferred Location: Zuhl Library Conference Room

Committee Appointments for 2014-15:

- **Chair** – Meghan Downes
- **UOAC Representative** – Meghan Downes
- **Project Team Leads**
 - Teaching Network Website – Tauna Cole, Heejung Chung
 - Peer Review Network – Merranda
 - Reflection – Jennifer Noonan