

**Assessment Retreat – May 2013**  
**Committee Report: Committee for the Assessment of Student Learning in General Education**  
**(CASL-GE)**

**Reflect on the accomplishments of the committee over the past year**

Tweaking Twain Critical Thinking Assessment Tool - We held a Teaching Academy workshop in the Fall of 2012 to discuss findings from last spring's round of assessment with the Tweaking Twain tool. Though attendance was modest, we reached faculty who had not previously been aware of efforts to assess student learning in general education. We also gained useful feedback on the tool and scoring. We completed a second round of assessment using the Tweaking Twain tool in spring 2013. We increased efforts to recruit students in online/hybrid courses, attracting about 40 students from these courses to participate. In April we held a Teaching Academy workshop/scoring session to assess the student work. This session attracted a much larger group of faculty participants, which again increased campus awareness of general education assessment. The scoring session results have been provided to the Office of Institutional Analysis for further assessment. We hope to have improved inter-rater reliability. We are also interested in reviewing differences/similarities between work done by online and face-to-face students.

Math/Science Assessment Tool - A subcommittee developed and tested new tool for assessing student learning in math and science. The committee held a scoring session in May. Preliminary indications are that the validity of the tool is good—it measures what it should measure. The scoring session results have been provided to Institutional Analysis for further assessment.

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

Yes

**Did the work the committee did last year fit within 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, our activities supported our goals and objectives. Evidence for this can be found in the work done to develop and revised assessment tools and processes (Tweaking Twain and new math/science tool) and to engage the campus community in general education assessment through workshops and participating in the scoring of the tools.

We have not made as much progress with some of our other goals, such as Goals 4 and 5. We would like to work more on these in the coming year.

**What directions should the committee head for this coming academic year (2013-14)? Are there any ideas for improved practices? Is there a particular goal/objective on which the committee should focus in the upcoming year? If so, which one(s) and why?**

- We would like to continue our efforts with Goals 1 and 2 and increase our work with Goals 4 and 5.
- For Goal 1, we would like to improve our assessment practices by adjusting timelines to allow for earlier identification of courses and recruitment of student participants.
- For Goal 2, we will partner with groups including the Advocates for Scholarly Teaching and possibly the Department Head Academy to increase awareness of our findings to date and seek assistance and ideas in addressing some of the problems we have found with student skills. We would also like to increase student awareness and plan to partner with co-curricular groups to brainstorm ideas for doing this, such as including information in New Student Orientation and in UNIV150.
- For Goal 4, we will work with Shelly and the Office of Assessment to consider the best ways of partnering with other committees that work with general education courses such as the GE Course Certification Committee.
- For Goal 5, we will review national trends in general education assessment.

**What is the role the committee should play in working toward goals/objectives this year? What role should committee members play? Does everyone agree? If not, explain.**

Committee members who were present agreed to the following roles.

- Julie will continue to chair the group.
- Cindy will assist with outreach/engagement, including outreach to department heads/chairs and co-curricular groups to increase student and staff awareness of GE assessment. She will continue to act as liaison to the ELL group led by Laurie Churchill and Patti Wojohn.
- David S./Amal/Ryan (possibly with Michael D'Antonio from Physics) will complete tweaking of science/math tool and rubric, and will review alignment with the common core.
- Kassia will continue to work with recruitment of students in online/hybrid courses through Canvas.
- Greg will take the lead on reviewing national trends in assessment of general education, particularly relating to writing.
- All of us will work closely with Shelly to determine what our role should be in assessment of writing and in forging partnerships with other committees such as the Committee on General Education Course Certification.
- We may need to replace Dennis due to his increased governance responsibilities.

#### **Project Focus 2013-14**

**Outcome 1:** NMSU has at least two reliable, valid instruments and strong practices that assess specific aspects of student learning in the general education curriculum.

**Tasks:**

- Tweaking Twain Critical Thinking Tool – receive report from Institutional Analysis by August and complete analysis of latest round of assessment in preparation for September Teaching Academy workshop.
- Science/Math Tool – receive report from Institutional Analysis by August. Subcommittee refines instrument in fall and aligns with common core. Re-tests in spring.
- Writing – committee meets with Director of Assessment in August to determine involvement with writing assessment initiative.

**Outcome 2:** NMSU students are engaged with the general education curriculum

**Tasks:**

- Still working on these. Ideas include seeking opportunities to increase student awareness, potentially through New Student Orientation and incorporation into UNIV150. We may want to team up with CASL-BE, which has similar goals for student outreach.

**Outcome 3:** NMSU faculty are engaged with assessing student learning in the general education curriculum

**Tasks:**

- Still working on these. Ideas include working more closely with Committee on General Education Course Certification, potentially also reach out to department heads.

**Date Requests-2013-14 Academic Calendar****Regular Meetings**

Fourth Tuesday of the month, 3-4pm, Zuhl Conference Room

**Meeting with Shelly on August 27<sup>th</sup>. In this meeting, we need the following:**

1. Data from Institutional Analysis on Tweaking Twain
2. QI person and Shelly for writing discussion.

**Special Events**

Teaching Academy Open Forum/Report of Findings (Julie F.) Sept. 11, 9-10am; Sept. 12, 3-4pm  
Teaching Academy – Scoring Session (Julie F.) March 14, 9am-1pm