

DSA Assessment Team Minutes

April 11, 2016

Present: Debbi Almand, Anthony Schneider, Raye Leigh Stone, Cruz Rios, Mark Haven, Carol Binzer, Kari Keller, Judd Moody, Darby Roberts, Kelly Cox, Susan Fox-Forrester, Katie Reed, Amanda Dyer, Judy Marrs, Blake Whitaker, Eric Posada, Stefanie Baker, Jerry Smith, Tammie Preston-Cunningham, and Melissa Shehane

Absent: Paul Harwell

Guest: Jana Corley (UCSE), Dustin Grabsch (Residence Life), and Kisha Lee (Children's Center)

Department Presentations

Department of Residence Life

- Dustin Grabsch presented on work the department is doing with purposive sampling and focus groups.
- They are looking at academic support needs of residential students through qualitative assessment; one factor that was important was comparing those using the services to those not using them and understanding any differences.
- Through research they determined there were several possible factors to determine what was most appropriate for their study.
- Additionally, the department is looking at a framework for measuring underrepresented students. They knew from EBI data that African American and Hispanic students were having a different experience than white students, and generally that the African American and Hispanic students reported higher levels of satisfaction. However, in looking at grades as an indicator of success, found that their grades were lower.
- The utilized a deficit thinking framework in approaching this – often we approach data or understanding data from our personal framework. The department is stepping back to look at language and how students see or understand things. One example is when we discuss student engagement, often times we are looking at that from a lens of engagement with division programs/activities. However, students might not be involved with the division, but may be heavily engaged with their college or research with a faculty member.

Becky Gates Children's Center

- Debbi Almand and Kisha Lee shared information about their parent/guardian evaluation from spring 2015.
- This is a mostly satisfaction survey administered each spring semester with the parents of children at the center. The spring 2016 survey will be going out soon.
- Many questions on the survey are consistent to compare year to year, but some change to measure specific needs for the department. Additionally, they look at parents with one child at the center separately compared to parents with multiple children at the center.
- In 2015 the topics on the survey included curriculum, faculty/staff, communication, the center (physical space, meals, etc.), and overall satisfaction.
- Some changes they have made based on the 2015 results include food being offered and the menu, communication with parents, reduced the days staff are gone for staff development, and give more information about other day care options when the center is closed.

Being an Assessment Resource for Your Department

We discussed different ways Assessment Team members serve as resources for their department related to assessment. There were a wide range of ideas discuss and different ways Assessment Team members serve their department including:

- Being a central point for department outcomes
- Setting an assessment agenda for the year
- Setting (and reminding about) deadlines
- Writing in WEAVEonline – gathering information from other staff
- Communicating with others

- Being a resource or answer questions
- Having a spot on the department staff agenda to share about assessment
- Helping with specific assessment project
- Reviewing/editing assessment plans written by other staff
- Serving on (or chair) a department assessment team
- Everything – single point for assessment items
- Working with staff to tie their budgets to their assessment when requesting money or submitting their annual budget
- Providing training for new staff members
- Consulting staff members
- Sharing resources

Other Items and Announcements

- Assessment Plans:
 - Findings are due June 1 – be sure to begin working on these.
 - Each department should have received their feedback on last year's plans from the Office of Effectiveness and Evaluation (former OIA). Overall, the DSA plans were better than last year. Action plans was the areas that had the lowest scores. When writing your action plans focus on changes being made to programs or services based on the results, not changes to the assessment itself.
- Annual reports – this is still being finalized, but it will be happening. At this time there is no structure or timeline. Some things that will mostly be included is for departments to know who they serve, what they do, and how effective they are. The annual reports will be one way to tell others who the Division of Student Affairs is and what we do.
- Writing Opportunity – there is an opportunity to write an article for the Assessment Update about how you've made changes based on assessment results. SLS can help co-write with you if needed. The article will be about 4-8 pages. Mark Haven expressed interest and had an idea.
- University of Houston Assessment Symposium:
 - The symposium is Friday, June 10; we would leave campus about 7:30 and arrive back about 5:30.
 - SLS will pay for registration and coordinate transportation.
 - Please confirm with Kelly if you want to attend by May 1 so registration can be completed.
 - There is also still time to submit to present – that deadline is May 2.
 - For additional information, go to their website at http://www.uh.edu/dsaes/about/assessment_planning/uhsas/index.html
- DSA Updates – this could be a great way to share assessment results or information about your programs/services and your effectiveness. The updates are sent out on weeks there is not a Vice President Meeting for directors and are sent to some external stakeholders such as the President, other Vice President, and the Chancellor's Office.
- Assessment Results – be sure to check out new reports being posted on Student Life Studies website at <http://studentlifestudies.tamu.edu/results>.
- Assessment projects this spring – Aggies RISE is administering a survey with all student employees in the division. The survey opened on April 7 and will close on April 22. Please encourage your student employees to take this survey.
- Mark your calendars:
 - Turning Findings into Action Plans: How to use assessment results – this workshop will be on Wednesday, May 18 from 8:30 – 9:30 am.
 - Student Life Studies is hosting our first annual Assessment Boot Camp on May 24 from 8:00am – 5:00pm. Registration is now open at <http://studentlifestudies.tamu.edu/Bootcamp>! The keynote speaker is Dr. Gavin Henning.
 - Findings for assessment plans are due June 1.
 - DSA Summer Advisor and Supervisor Symposium in June 6. Registration will be coming soon.
 - University of Houston Assessment Symposium is June 10.