

DSA Assessment Team November 13, 2017 Minutes

Present: Jennifer Ford (for Stefanie Baker), Raye Leigh Stone, Heather Bennett, Jana Corley, Kerry Pickens, Judd Moody, Russell Tipton, Marisa Suhm, Mark Haven, Debbie Almond, Greg Fink (for Jennifer Boyle), Ligia Perez, Byron Schlather, Darby Roberts, Kelly Cox, Susan Fox-Forrester, Eric Webb, and Kari Keller

Absent: Disability Services, Residence Life, and Veterans Resource and Support Center

Introductions

We did introductions; Student Life Studies is excited to have a full staff. Dr. Ligia Perez started working in the department on October 16. Welcome to the Assessment Team Ligia!

A-Team Reflection

How do you encourage staff in your department to value assessment?

- It is not hard; it is tied to money to some degree. Satisfaction and numbers helps support what staff ask for and make changes.
- Information from SLS about what they are doing to help tell their story.
- It should be tied to their performance evaluation.
- How to assess the full program?
- How do we create experiences for all different organizations? Time is the biggest barrier - but use internal department committee to help advisors. Make sure staff are carving out time.
- Programs are easier to assessment; but trying to do more to assess service. Trying to bridge that gap more to include all functions within the department.
- It can be an easy way to publish or present at a conference - find ways to use assessments in other ways to benefit the individuals.

Department Presentations

Multicultural Services Presentation

Marisa Suhm presented for Multicultural Services on the community of respect program presented at New Student Conferences. This program has had several changes since the program started in 2007. Used the results initially to change the time and made it more interactive. Different assessment methods were used over the years - clickers, paper, poll everywhere, supplemental qualitative questions post-event by NSC program. Over 98% of respondents were able to identify how to report acts of insensitivity or bias. 99% recognized their responsibility to respect others. Results are shared with numerous stakeholders throughout the institution. Information has been made to change the program, make information accessible to everyone, improve training of presenters, and change the assessment method. Assessment is essential to remain relevant and keep up with the audience.

Student Activities Presentation

Greg Fink presented for Student Activities on the traditional inclusion initiative research year 1 project. Research question: "How are our campus traditions inclusive or exclusive for its audience?" Traditions such as Silver Taps, Elephant Walk, Muster, Fish Camp, Big Event, Ring Dance, and Midnight Yell Practice. The project has been based on current literature available. Looked at information from student leaders, event participants, and event non-participants using a mixed method approach with focus groups, one-on-one interviews, and participant observations. With student leaders questions were asked about if diversity is important to their student organization, why or why not? Student leaders initially centralized race and its link to diversity. They were also asked about how they perceived diversity within their own groups. Some additional themes included heteronormativity, ableism, interpretation of white masculinity, and the need for additional history education. Shared the results through a presentation. Moving forward working with student organizations, creating resources, and education and potential programming. Looking at making smart moves to make the most in a quick time. Challenges included getting feedback from students, coding interviews, and working on a project without a clean end in mind.

Discussion

Tableau Demonstration

Eric Webb gave a Tableau demonstration. Tableau is a data analysis software and allows for more visual display of data. It allows you to filter to change the population you are looking at for specific programs. It allows someone to interact with the data a little more by changing filters and look at specific populations. Examples of seeing data being powered by Tableau is accountability.tamu.edu. Student Life Studies is being to create dashboards for departments with longitudinal projects, especially focused on demographics and retention/graduation rates. Dashboards can be made public and available on a website or it can be more restricted depending on the information. Dashboards from Student Life Studies would be sent to departments as a url; however, as that url is shared with others, anyone with that url would have access to view the data.

Student Life Studies Website

Susan Fox-Forrester shared some changes to the Student Life Studies website (studentlifestudies.tamu.edu). We've made it easier to initiate an assessment project with Student Life Studies. We've started a blog and there will be some new posts through the year. Results are shared on our website - reports are shared on the website. There are categories you can search for projects by topic areas. You can also look up reports by departments. If a department does not want a report posted on the website, they should let Student Life Studies know. There is an Assessment Team page that has committee members and meeting minutes. We are going to work on building more resources to all staff to get information on demands. If there are resources you think would be beneficial, please share that with Susan so we could build those.

WEAVEonline

- The system will open sometime after Thanksgiving, but we do not have a specific date yet. The university deadline for goals, outcomes, measures, and target will most likely be mid-January. However, departments should begin now, if they haven't already, creating an idea of what their plan will include.
- Q. Is it valuable for SLS to do WEAVEonline trainings for writers?
- Yes by several departments, but also could be based on how long staff have been writing.
- Information will be coming out from Student Life Studies about updating access to your departments' assessment plan. When you get it, you'll have instructions about how to take staff off the list, add new staff to the list using their NetID, and changing the level of access staff have. Please watch for this and complete it within the deadline. We anticipate it being a fairly quick turnaround time.
- Feedback from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Evaluation about 2016-2017 assessment plans should be back in January.

Announcements

- There will be a training workshop on writing outcomes and measuring those outcomes on Thursday, November 30 from 1 – 5 pm. DSA staff can register online at studentlifestudies.tamu.edu.

Reminders and Due Dates

- The next meeting will be December 11. The reflection question will be: How does your department's assessment plan benefit your department?
 - Future Assessment Team meetings: December 11, January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13
- Late November is when the new cycle will open in WEAVEonline.
- December 20 – deadline for the DSA Annual Reports.