

DSA Assessment Team Minutes

January 11, 2016

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

Guests: Caitlin Hoover (MSC) and Jana Corley (UCSE)

Introductions

- We had introductions and welcomed some new faces.
- Welcome to Katie Reed, the new Data Analyst in Student Life Studies and Caitlin Hoover, a new advisor in the MSC.

Department Presentations

- Student Activities
 - Melissa Shehane discussed the Maroon and White Society, which was approved in 2013.
 - 2014-2015 was the pilot year and getting the program off the ground.
 - During the summer 2015 several people mapped all the outcomes of the program with the DSA goals and undergraduate learning outcomes.
 - An overall assessment plan for the Maroon and White Society during a curriculum redesign processes.
 - Melissa explained the different measures for different aspects for the overall program.
 - There are rubrics used when students reflect on one of their eight experiences. At the end of a students' experience as a Maroon and White Fellow, students write a written reflection and through a capstone experience with a poster session.
 - Rubrics can be an option for assessing students' experience.
 - The DSA Committee of Leadership Initiatives will be offering a process of reviewing student programs or leadership executive team to redesign what is currently offered. More information will be coming out to the division later this spring.
- Office of the Commandant
 - Blake Whitaker shared information about the Corps of Cadets climate survey, conducted in the fall 2015.
 - The survey was based from a similar survey conducted with the Corps of Cadets at Virginia Tech.
 - There was an 80% response rate from cadets and was broken into seven sections.
 - Learned a few lessons such as the need to examine the questions prior to sending the survey out. Additionally the need to really craft questions to get more specifics.
 - Learned the need to share processes with stakeholders.
 - Interest in the 20% who did not complete the survey to understand their experience and if they are all from the same unit or area and ensure all aspects throughout the corps.
 - This was a good benchmark to move forward.
 - What was the most significant finding related to academics section? Cadets' impression of the tutoring services being offered by the Corps of Cadets.
 - There will be a policy review over the summer and some areas will be looked at using feedback from this assessment.
 - Did you benchmark against Virginia Tech? No, not currently?
 - Will feedback be shared with the cadets? Not the feedback specifically but will be making changes based on the feedback, but not all feedback may be possible to be used.
 - What were the top things the Corps does well and can improve on? Cadets do have confidence in the system related to discipline and happy with the support from the academics office. Top area to improve is communication within the organization.

Plans, Plans, and More Plans

Darby shared information about the various plans and areas that drive our work and our assessments.

Texas A&M Strategic Plan - still in a draft version

- Provide an outstanding educational experience - learning outcomes, educational experiences, high completion rates, and timely graduation rate.
- Produce impactful new knowledge - innovation, creative works contributions to solving society's grand challenges.
- Place the needs of the public good - graduation rates, and stewardship of state's resources, low debt burden.

Texas A&M Learning Outcomes

- Specific ones for graduate and undergraduate students.
- For the undergraduate student learning outcomes, there are six of the seven that can easily fit within the division.
- If you work with master level or doctoral level students, be sure to review the learning outcomes for those populations.
- The Texas A&M University System and the State of Texas also has identified learning outcomes and the institution must report on these areas.

DSA Strategic Plan

- Contains six strategic goals and each goal has outcomes.
- Currently the division is working on the strategies and metrics on supporting the strategic plan.
- This plan is new and was shared in early 2015. This is the first academic year under the new strategic plan.

Vice President's Expectation

- Be the preeminent Division of Student Affairs.
- How does the division impact students' persistence, graduation, GPR, employability after graduation.
- Look at first generation, socio-economic status, race/ethnicity, gender, college and classification (undergraduate, graduate, and professional)
- The plan will be for these areas to be reported on an annual rate.
- KRIs- results of many actions carried out by many teams KPIs - focus on aspects of organizational performance

Department Strategic Plan

- Important directional document for your department and where you are going in the next 1-5 years.
- The department plan should align with the DSA strategic plan and your contributions to it.
- Your plan is also influenced by the comprehensive program review, functional area accreditation, etc.
- There is not a set format for department strategic plans.

Department Assessment Plans

- This is the information that is put in WEAVEonline.
- Your assessment plan should address important, measurable areas from your strategic plan.
- OIA likes to see evidence of efficiency, effectiveness, satisfaction, and student learning.
- Your department assessment plan should associate with Vision 2020, the DSA strategic plan, university learning outcomes, and the Texas A&M Diversity Plan where appropriate.
- SACSCOC reviews and analyzes these assessment plans and it is important that everything lines up appropriately.

Department Assessment Planning

- How does what you are doing on a day to day basis align with your department assessment plan and strategic plan?
- Additionally, how does it align with one of the goals for the DSA strategic plan?
- Making sure the assessment you are actually doing fits with what you say you are doing in your assessment plan.

Department Assessment Plans

- Student Life Studies is reviewing all departments assessment plans, specifically the mission, goals, outcomes, measures, and target.
- Feedback from Student Life Studies is being sent back to departments on these areas.
- Be sure to look at the feedback from Student Life Studies and as appropriate make changes for improving your assessment plans or articulating your assessment plan.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be February 8 – DMS and UCSE are scheduled to present.