

## **DSA Assessment Team Minutes**

### **August 8, 2016**

Present: Byron Schlather, Raye Leigh Stone, Stefanie Baker, Mark Haven, Carol Binzer, Melissa Shehane, Tammie Preston-Cunningham, Kari Keller, Jena Corley (for Judy Marrs), Darby Roberts, Kelly Cox, Katie Reed, Amanda Dyer, Kristie Orr (for Paul Harwell), Eric Posada, and Russell Tipton

Departments not represented: Children's Center, Student Health Center, DoIT, Multicultural Services, and VRSC

### **Department Presentations**

#### Music Activities

- Eric shared an overview of Music Activities assessment plan and the instrument used to measure their outcomes and how they develop action plans based on their results.
- Music Activities is a relatively new department and consists of 15 ensembles with approximately 1300 students. Students can register for course credit for the ensembles they are in. Since these are classes, assessment and reflection are ongoing in their work.
- The department has eight outcomes for their students as part of these ensembles and they utilize the UIL performance rubric to evaluate students' mastery of these learning outcomes. This rubric addresses a number of different aspects and there are different rubrics appropriate for band, choral, and orchestra.
- This past year, the department met 13 out of 14 targets, which is that 100% of ensemble members would be rated as "excellent" on the rubric.
- For the one target the department did not meet, 91% of the ensemble members were rated at "excellent" on the UIL rubric. To develop an action plan, they focused on the rubric and which areas were not rated at the "excellent" level and this upcoming year will select appropriate literature (music) to address these areas and do more guided learning.
- In addition to changes the department will make in working with ensemble members, they are looking at doing more frequent evaluations using the rubric and adjusting the target from "excellent" to "superior" and percentage to reach this level.

#### Student Counseling Service

- Christine Davis presented on the training program for Sex in the Dark, an education program.
- Students are trained as presenters to lead these programs, which consist of students asking various questions on topics related to sexuality. Since it is not the same program each time, the presenters need to be very knowledgeable and able to respond to many topics.
- The National Teacher Preparation Standards for Sexuality Education is used to determine what presenters need to be proficient in before presenting. There are four main areas: professionalism, content knowledge, public speaking, and diversity.
- The training program for students consists of six online modular, in-person training, observation, co-facilitation, and continued education. Assessment aspects are built in throughout the training module.
- Christine focused on the assessment that follows the in-person training. A 10-question quiz is given to students through e-campus and focuses on content knowledge and values based questions that have been asked at previous Sex in the Dark programs.
- In 2014-2015 a rubric was created to measure completeness and accuracy, however it was very challenging to use. That year they did not meet their target and made programmatic changes as well as changed the assessment.
- The next year the rubric was simplified to be easier to use. A spreadsheet was used to track each individual student and their rubric score for each of the 10 questions. From this they were able to dig deeper to focus on individual students and provide additional trainings based on the questions they did not do as well on. They could also look at specific questions and how many students met the target. From this, they found out that the values based questions had the lowest scores so this can be an area to focus on during the in-person training in the future.

## Discussion:

- WEAVEonline
  - Assessment plans should be getting wrapped up completed – and definitely by September 1. We discussed with individual departments missing aspects or having some things in progress.
  - Student Life Studies will be doing a final review of assessment plans between September 1 and September 15. Departments will have from September 16 – 30 to make any final edits or changes before the cycle closes.
  - If you are having difficulties, please contact Student Life Studies early.
  - Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Evaluation are looking a different instrument to review assessment plans in the future but for this year, SLS will use the rubrics we have been using.
  - We discussed reporting retention, persistence, graduation rates, and grades in WEAVEonline.
    - WEAVE is not the easiest tool in reporting these areas unless this is a measure for academic related interventions you may be doing. For most departments if a target is not met, the department is not doing anything specifically to address or impact this so the action plan becomes to assess again.
    - After some discussion, we agreed to mark any item related to these areas as ending this year and do the best in writing up action plans that will focus on improving programs and services for students.
    - The exception to this is if you are doing some type of academic program or intervention and if you are not meeting your target, you are able to directly address changes you would make or things that are within your control to address.
    - Please be sure to review feedback from SLS on these areas and talk to the staff member if you have questions or you are not sure how to address what is in your plan.
- Onboarding New Members
  - We discussed what new members need to know when joining this committee:
    - Something to understand what to report where and how different plans fit together (WEAVEonline, department annual reports, HIP reporting, completion grant reporting, department strategic plans, and contributions to the division strategic plan.
    - Checklist of things that are due and when as well as what they are
    - Vocabulary cheat sheet for acronyms.
    - Letting new members know that being on the Assessment Team involves being responsible for the departments' assessment plan in WEAVEonline.
    - Topics that are assessed and where that goes – such as diversity efforts, learning outcomes, financial assessments, persistence, etc.
    - Clean up mixed messages from over the years.
    - Communication with director (each way) and sharing information with staff in the department.
  - Student Life Studies is going to work on developing an onboarding process for new members, as well as returning members to cover things that have changed over the years.
  - If you have additional ideas or thoughts, please send those to Kelly Cox.
- Results from the Assessment Team Start, Stop, Continue Assessment
  - Kelly shared the results from this assessment that was administered at the May meeting.
  - SLS will use this information to be more intentional with developing agendas to address topics suggested by members and will adjust the department presentations to be a little more targeted in what was done, what you learned, who you'll share it with, and changes you'll make.

## Announcements

- If your department hasn't turning in your department assessment planning form, please send those in this week.
- You can still volunteer with move in for the residence halls, which is Sunday, August 21. It is a great opportunity to welcome new students.
- Check out new reports on the SLS website at <http://studentlifestudies.tamu.edu/results>.
- Meetings for the 2016-2017 year will be the second Monday of the month from 3:00 – 4:30 in Koldus 144. The next meeting will be September 12. Calendar invitations will be going out once all the departments submit committee assignments to the OVPSA.
- Don't forget to consider the NASPA Excellence Awards are now open and due November 1. The website is <https://www.naspa.org/about/awards/excellence-awards>.