



Item: AS: I-2

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Thursday, December 13, 2012

SUBJECT: STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

No action required. Information item.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

See attached PowerPoint presentation.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

N/A

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Supporting Documentation:

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

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FLORIDA ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees
Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

December 13, 2012

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

- A. Alignment with BOG regulation 8.016
- B. Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes for Degree Programs
- C. Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes for Intellectual Foundations Program (core curriculum)



Office of the Provost

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A. Alignment with BOG Regulation 8.016

BOG Regulation 8.016 states that institutions must:

- Identify student learning outcomes
- Develop corresponding assessment methods
- Use a program assessment system
- Ensure continuous improvement in program effectiveness and student learning

B. Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes for Degree Programs

Process at FAU

- Student learning outcomes identified
- Multiple methods used to assess learning outcomes
- Analyze data
- Data used to make continuous improvement in program effectiveness and student learning

Example of steps in assessing the BA in English

1. One of three student learning outcomes:
 Students will have the ability to analyze/interpret a complex literary work...
2. Assessment method for this outcome
 Faculty committee assessed student essays from two gateway courses
3. Data analyzed for 2010-2011
4. Based on data, faculty changed pedagogical methods in 2011-2012

Assessment of student essays before and after changes in pedagogical methods

Rating	Results 2010-2011	Results 2011-2012
Superior	18 %	20 %
Strong	32 %	33 %
Competent	35 %	38 %
Inadequate	15 %	9 %

Examples of types of actions taken to ensure continuous improvement

Course revisions	Improvements in pedagogy
Assessment plan changes	Personnel changes (e.g., instructors)
Curricular changes, including adding or changing courses	Use results to budget and allocate resources
Improve advising	Faculty development/training

Top four actions taken to ensure continuous improvement

Program Improvement	Number of Programs Making Improvement		
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Course revisions	61	68	41
Assessment plan changes	57	54	46
Curricular changes, including adding or changing courses	28	37	24
Improve advising	17	25	17

C. Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes for Intellectual Foundations Program (core curriculum)

- Four general student learning outcomes called General Competencies
- Six categories of student learning outcomes called Specific Competencies
- Assessment results used to improve individual courses and the overall program
- Spring 2012 assessment process used data from 72 representative sections

Percentage of courses meeting or exceeding benchmarks in General Competencies

Learning Outcome	Courses Meeting or Exceeding Benchmark
1. The ability to think critically	68 %
2. The ability to communicate effectively	69 %
3. An appreciation for how knowledge is discovered, challenged, and transformed as it advances	63 %
4. An understanding of ethics and ethical behavior	80 %

Percentage of courses meeting or exceeding benchmarks in the Specific Competency of *Global Citizenship*

Learning Outcome	Courses Meeting or Exceeding Benchmark
<i>Global Citizenship</i> (Western Identities Only)	
1. Identify different individual, cultural, and national identities	100 %
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the economic, political, environmental and/or social processes that influence human action/interaction	75 %

Percentage of courses meeting or exceeding benchmarks in Specific Competency of *Creative Expression*

Learning Outcome	Courses Meeting or Exceeding Benchmark
<i>Creative Expression</i>	
1. Identify one or more forms/genres of creative expression	89 %
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the theory or methods behind the creative expression(s)	89 %
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the social, cultural, or historical context of the creative expression(s)	100 %

Percentage of courses meeting or exceeding benchmarks in Specific Competency of *Science and the Natural World, Labs*

Learning Outcome	Courses Meeting or Exceeding Benchmark
<i>Science and the Natural World, Labs</i>	
1. Demonstrate an understanding of how experiments are conducted	71 %
2. Be able to analyze resulting data	75 %
3. Be able to draw appropriate conclusions from such data	75 %

Actions taken to ensure continuous improvement in the Specific Competency of *Science and the Natural World*

Department	Course Title	Changes made
Physics	Intro to Astronomy	Add more material on explanatory models
Chemistry	General Chemistry I	Use more examples to illustrate complex reactions
Anthropology	Intro to Anthropology	Increase group work activities
Engineering	Engineering, Science, and the Humanities	Increase lab assistance and work on progressive skill building

Summary

- A. Alignment with BOG regulation 8.016**
- B. Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes for Degree Programs**
- C. Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes for Intellectual Foundations Program (core curriculum)**

