



Outcomes Assessment Work Group December-Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 9, 2016

1:00pm – 2:00 pm

Founders Hall 111

View the agenda and attachments at:

<http://outcomesassessment.sites.mjc.edu/index.php>

Members Present: Taure Shimp, Beth Bailey, Milan Motoroni, Gagandeep Dhaliwal, Yolande Petersen, Nita Gopal, Lynnette Borrelli, & Jillian Daly

Discussion:

- Members discussed the immediate task on hand, which was to encourage faculty members, whose courses are planned for assessment this semester, to enter their information by the end of Jan—specifically Jan 31.
- Members discussed the ongoing task of helping make assessments “easy” and “meaningful.”

The group watched this short video: <https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/data-carousels-improveinstruction> and discussed the positives of OA as well the difficulties of the assessment scenario:

- ❖ Nobody “owns” assessment at our school.
- ❖ There are no policies or procedures in place for assessments.
- ❖ As the Academic Senate is the body of authority to create a procedure for assessments, perhaps faculty members could request their Senate reps to help out by creating an assessment process as opposed to OAW members constantly requesting their colleagues for their assessment information.
- ❖ As a school, we need to share good assessment methods with each other.
- ❖ The striving for meaning in assessments is currently a vicious cycle: In order to achieve meaning, we first need to input data for a few consecutive semesters; without seeing the meaning in assessments, faculty hesitate to input data.



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- ❖ Right now, we're at the very cusp, the very beginning of understanding assessments. Only by doing it for two-three consecutive semesters, will we be able to look at data (as shown in the video) and analyze it.
- ❖ The analysis could bring forth innovative ideas (as shown in the video)
- ❖ If every department could allot just fifteen minutes a semester to analyze data, we might begin to see the power of Outcomes Assessment.
- ❖ OA is about how students learn-- a teacher's Holy Grail.
- ❖ OA is like learning a different language; until now, we, as teachers, have been used to grading, and with OA, we just need to adapt to an unfamiliar language.
- ❖ OAW members (if possible) will forward Nita a few lines at the end of a semester or year about the state of assessments within their division or department, which Nita will submit to Academic Senate.
- ❖ One of the major issues OAW faces in encouraging faculty to input their information is misunderstandings about assessments. Outcomes Assessment is still seen as "redundant," "labor-intensive" and "threatening."
- ❖ OAW is thankful to wonderful and accommodating faculty members who are engaging in Outcomes Assessment by asking questions, emailing, and inputting their data.

Adjourned at 2:00 pm