

TO: Fort Wayne Senate

FROM: Educational Policy Committee
Barbara J. Bulmahn, Chair

DATE: October 26, 1992

SUBJECT: NCA Assessment Plan

DISPOSITION: To the Chancellor for Implementation

Whereas, the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools has revised accreditation Criterion III ("The institution is fulfilling its purposes.") so as to require an assessment plan by which the institution documents student academic achievement;

Whereas, the Commission requires that plans must address the following five Components of an Assessment Plan:

1. The plan is linked to the mission, goals, and objectives of the institution;
2. The plan is carefully articulated and is institution-wide in conceptualization and scope;
3. The plan leads to institutional improvement;
4. The plan is being implemented according to a timeline;
5. The plan is administered; and

Whereas, IPFW must present its plan to the Commission, and begin implementation of it, not later than June 30, 1995;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Chancellor do the following for ensuring fulfillment of Criterion III and the continuation of IPFW's accreditation and good standing with the Commission of the North Central Association:

STEERING COMMITTEE

Membership

Each dean/director of the schools (Arts and Sciences, Business and Management Sciences, Continuing Studies, Education, Engineering and Technology, Fine and Performing Arts, Health Sciences, and Public and Environmental Affairs) and the director of Student Academic Counseling Services will name one representative each to the Steering Committee for Assessment of Student Academic Achievement (SCASAA).

Chair

The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs or the vice chancellor's designee will chair the SCASAA.

Responsibilities

The SCASAA will coordinate the development of IPFW's assessment plan according to the guidelines set forth in the remainder of this document.

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Steps

1. Each unit (school, department, program, center, etc.) that serves as the academic home for students--undergraduate and graduate--shall formulate a statement of mission, goals, and objectives consistent with IPFW's statement of mission, goals, and objectives. See the Mission Statement of Purdue University provided to the Commission for Higher Education, February 21, 1992; Elaboration of the IPFW Mission Statement, SD 91-6; and Goals and Objectives for the IPFW Baccalaureate Degree, SD 88-33.

(March 1, 1993 suggested)

2. The SCASAA shall review and recommend the units' statements to the Fort Wayne Senate;

(April 23, 1993 suggested)

3. Each unit shall develop an appropriate assessment plan;

(February 1, 1994 suggested)

4. The SCASAA shall review each unit's plan; integrate the units' plans into an institution-wide plan; submit it to the Senate for approval; and, following Senate action, recommend a plan to the Chancellor.

(April 15, 1994 suggested)

5. The SCASAA shall develop plans for informing the various constituencies about the assessment plan and its continuing implementation; for monitoring the units' maintenance,

review, and revision of their assessment plans; and for coordinating IPFW's assessment plan with its short- and long-range goals and with its short- and long-range resource allocations.

Content

1. A unit's plan shall provide for the assessment of student academic achievement in relation to each of the elements of the unit's academic goals. Usually, the plans will provide for assessing academic goals related to foundation skills, knowledge and awareness, and major area of study (see SD 88-33); some will provide for assessing academic goals related to developmental studies.

2. In addition, a unit's plan shall set forth a procedure for ensuring that the analysis of student achievement data shall lead to (1) the reform of courses and curricula, degree requirements, pedagogy, and the improvement of student learning, and (2) regular review of the assessment plan itself

Authority

Unit plans shall be developed and administered so as to ensure faculty/staff ownership and responsibility for the plans at school, department, and program levels consistent with collegial governance.

Measures

Measures of student academic achievement shall be selected and applied to promote confidence in the evidence that they yield. To that end every assessment plan shall utilize multiple measures of student learning. Issues related to traditional versus nontraditional measures, quantitative versus qualitative measures, and the timing of measures shall be decided according to principles of social science research.

Implementation

1. Each unit's plan shall contain a time-line for implementation, consistent with the institution-wide time-line established by the SCASAA.

2. A unit's plan shall include provision for resources (people, equipment, S&E, space) to accomplish the planned acts.

3. Each unit's plan shall specify who has responsibility to trigger successive actions.