

To: The Public Affairs Faculty

From: The Department Assessment Committee; Barry Hancock, Jospeter Mbuba, Ko Otani

Re: Assessment Report 2009-2010

May 21, 2010

Greeting all,

In November of 2008, the Assessment of Student Learning plan was adopted by the faculty. The plan reflected the goals of the Pedagogical Framework for the IPFW Baccalaureate Degree, and Core Competency Areas for the Master of Public Affairs and the master of Public Management Degrees.

An assessment was conducted by the committee during the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 semesters. Target courses were identified for assessment. Syllabi, student assignments and tests were collected and filed. Each committee member assessed several classes, both undergraduate and graduate. The committee assessed each selected course for the following:

B.S.P.A.

Which of the B.S.P.A. goals appear in the syllabus?

Does student work reflect the syllabus requirements and the goals?

M.P.A.

Core Competency Goals appear in the syllabus?

Does student work reflect the syllabus requirements and the goals?

M.P.M.

Core Competency Goals appear in the syllabus?

Does student work reflect the syllabus requirements and the goals?

Observations

Based on our overall assessment of the syllabi and student course materials, the goals and competencies are being met (See below). Even though we did not discover specific goals addressing **personal and professional values** in the syllabi we are fairly certain that this goal is being met through activities like, discussions of ethics, attendance requirements, standards for assignment submission, meeting deadlines, classroom order and the like.

While not all goals (undergraduate) and competencies (graduate) are present in every course, we believe that across all target courses, goals and competencies are being addressed. We do not expect every course to address every goal and/or competency, but rather view the assessment as reflective of the degree programs as a whole.

Suggestions

Continue assessing syllabi and course materials.

Better define assessment criteria for “personal and professional values” and “professionalism.”

Clearly list the goals or competencies in the syllabi.

Distribute a survey at the time we administer course evaluations to gather direct student feedback on whether they believe that the goals or competencies are being met. (**See attached example**)

Compare what the instructors believe they are accomplishing to what the students believe they are experiencing.

Data Tables

Fall 2009 Assessment of Student Learning- B.S.P.A.

Do the B.S.P.A. Goals and/or Commensurate Activities Appear in the Syllabus?

N= 5 courses

Course	E162	H120	H120	V170	V376	Totals (YES)
Acquisition of Knowledge	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
Application of Knowledge	Y	Y	Y		Y	4
Personal and Professional Values						0
Critical Thinking/ Problem Solving	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
Communications	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5

Student Portfolios Reflect the Syllabus Requirements

N= 5 courses

Course	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Unacceptable
E162	X				
H120	X				
H120		X			
V170	X				
V376	X				
Total	4	1			

Fall 2009- Assessment of Student Learning- M.P.A.

Do the Core Competency Goals Appear in the Syllabus?

N= 4

Course	V502	V506	V540	V600	Totals (YES)
Globalization				X	1
Governance			X		1
Strategic Analysis and Action	X	X	X	X	4
Organizational Management	X		X	X	3
Professionalism		X			1

Student Portfolios Reflect the Syllabus Requirements

N= 4 courses

Course	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Unacceptable
V502		X			
V506	X				
V540	X				
V600		X			
Total	2	2			

Fall 2009- Assessment of Student Learning- M.P.M.

Do the Core Competency Goals Appear in the Syllabus?

N= 3

Course	V502	V506	V560	Totals (YES)
Leadership			X	1
Applied Organizational Management	X		X	2
Strategic Analysis and Action	X	X	X	3
Professionalism		X	X	2

Student Portfolios Reflect the Syllabus Requirements

N= 3

Course	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Unacceptable
V502		X			
V506	X				
V560	X				
Total	2	1			

Spring 2010 Assessment of Student Learning- B.S.P.A.

Do the B.S.P.A. Goals and/or Commensurate Activities Appear in the Syllabus?

N= 7 courses

Course	E162	E162	H120	J101	J101	J439	V170	Totals (YES)
Acquisition of Knowledge	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
Application of Knowledge	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	5
Personal and Professional Values						Y		1
Critical Thinking/ Problem Solving	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	5
Communications	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	5

Student Portfolios Reflect the Syllabus Requirements

N= 7 courses

Course	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Unacceptable
E162		X			
H162		X			
H120		X			
J101	X				
J101	X				
J439	X				
V170	X				
Total	4	3			

Spring 2010- Assessment of Student Learning- M.P.A.

Do the Core Competency Goals Appear in the Syllabus?

N= 2

Course	V517	V562	Totals (YES)
Globalization			0
Governance		X	1
Strategic Analysis and Action	X	X	2
Organizational Management	X	X	2
Professionalism		X	1

Student Portfolios Reflect the Syllabus Requirements

N= 2 courses

Course	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Unacceptable
V517			X		
V562	X				
Total	1		1		

Spring 2010- Assessment of Student Learning- M.P.M.

Do the Core Competency Goals Appear in the Syllabus?

N= 2

Course	V509	V566	Totals (YES)
Leadership	X	X	2
Applied Organizational Management	X	X	2
Strategic Analysis and Action	X	X	2
Professionalism	X		1

Student Portfolios Reflect the Syllabus Requirements

N= 2 courses

Course	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Unacceptable
V509	X				
V566	X				
Total	1				

EXAMPLES

Questions that could be asked of students at the same time as course evaluations are administered.

(Only use the questions for the goals and/or competencies presented on the course syllabi)

BSPA courses

Acquisition of Knowledge- I acquired new knowledge from this course

Application of Knowledge- There were assignments and/or activities that help me apply knowledge

Personal and Professional Values- Personal and/or professional values were emphasized in this course

Critical Thinking/ Problem Solving- In this course there was an opportunity for critical thinking and/or problem solving

Communications- Communications was encouraged in this course through class discussions, writing assignments or other activities

MPA courses

Globalization- This course helped me understand the global context of public affairs

Governance- I better understand governance after taking this course

Strategic Analysis and Action- In addition to learning concepts this course applied strategic analysis and action planning to the concepts.

Organizational Management- I have a better understanding of organizational management after completing this course.

Professionalism- Professionalism was explained and encouraged throughout this course.

MPM courses

Leadership- I better understand concepts and styles that are the mark of good leaders

Applied Organizational Management- I have a better understanding of how to manage organizations.

Strategic Analysis and Action- In addition to learning concepts this course applied strategic analysis and action planning to the concepts.

Professionalism- Professionalism was explained and encouraged throughout this course.

