

UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Feedback to Departments on Assessment Activities Reported in 2003-2004 Annual Reports

DEPARTMENT Indian Studies

DATE April 11, 2005

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) CONDUCTING REVIEW Paul E. Sum

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------------------|
| • Were any goals referenced? | YES___ | NO__N_ | QUALIFIED Y/N ___ |
| • If so, were goals well articulated? | YES___ | NO__N_ | QUALIFIED Y/N ___ |
| • Do goals address student learning? | YES___ | NO___ | QUALIFIED Y/N ___ |

Comments:

The annual report mentions 10 key areas of student learning but does not develop these when describing the “self-confidence survey.” It would be helpful if these were specified.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

- | | | | |
|--|---------|-------|---------------------|
| Were any specific assessment methods referenced? | YES__Y_ | NO___ | QUALIFIED Y/N ___ |
| • If so, were specifically chosen assessment methods appropriately aligned with individual goals? | YES___ | NO___ | QUALIFIED Y/N __N__ |
| • Were both direct and indirect assessment methods used as components of a “multiple measures” approach? | YES___ | NO___ | QUALIFIED Y/N __N__ |

Comments:

It is unclear whether both direct and indirect methods of assessment are referenced in the report. The “self-confidence survey” is said to include a pre-test and a post-test, implying a direct measure. However, later in the report, it seems as if these are student perceptions of their own learning (indirect measure). More clarity would be appreciated. Also, without a clearer statement of goals, it is not possible to determine whether these are appropriate to the goals of student learning to be assessed.

ASSESSMENT RESULTS

- | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|---------------------|
| Were any assessment results reported? | YES___ | NO___ | QUALIFIED Y/N __Y__ |
| • If so, were the results clear in terms of how they specifically affirm achievement of goals? | YES___ | NO__N_ | QUALIFIED Y/N ___ |
| • If so, were the results clear in terms of how they indicate need for improvement? | YES___ | NO___ | QUALIFIED Y/N __Y__ |
| • Were the results tied to goals for student learning? | YES___ | NO__N_ | QUALIFIED Y/N ___ |

Comments:

The report only summarizes indirect measures of student learning, and these are vague in terms of connecting to student goals. Clearly other forms of assessment are taking place. It would be helpful if the results were presented from these other methods (such as the self-confidence survey).

CLOSING THE LOOP

Were any actions taken on the basis of assessment results reported?

YES____ NO____ QUALIFIED Y/N __Y__

- If so, do curricular or other improvements/ changes arising from assessment results directly address goals for student learning?

YES____ NO____ QUALIFIED Y/N __Y__

Comments:

The report states that when student curricular changes are enacted (in the future), these assessment results will be taken into consideration. Again, the absence of clear goals makes this difficult to link to the assessment process but the intention is appreciated.

SUMMARY

Strengths

- ____ A specific plan for assessment is in place.
- ____ Student learning goals are well-articulated.
- ____ Assessment methods are clearly described.
- ____ Assessment methods are appropriately selected.
- __X__ Assessment methods are well-implemented.
- __X__ Direct and indirect methods are implemented.
- ____ Results are reported.
- ____ Results are tied to closing the loop.
(decision-making is tied to evidence)

Areas for Improvement

- ____ No specific plan for assessment is in place.
- __X__ Student learning goals are not well-articulated.
- ____ Assessment methods are not clearly described.
- ____ Assessment methods are not appropriately selected.
- ____ Assessment methods are not well-implemented.
- ____ A single type of assessment methods predominates.
- ____ No results are reported.
- __X__ Results are not clearly tied to closing the loop.
(decision-making is not directly tied to evidence)

OVERALL SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The report reflects a process of assessment taking place. It would be helpful if specific student learning goals were clearly articulated and the process tied to these.