

Writing Committee of Lock Haven University
Minutes
February 3, 2006
Sullivan 310

Present: Brenda Corman, Roger Johnson, Josephine Pirrone, Scott Richeson, Laxman Satya, Julie Story, Greg Walker, Martin Maresch, John Wilson

Rick reported on progress towards plans of the Outcomes Assessment Committee (OAC) for Spring 2006. The plan includes:

- Meetings with Writing Emphasis (WE) instructors on February 8 and February 9 to recruit participants in assessments of rubric reliability and beginning and end of semester assessments to determine improvement over one semester across the WE curriculum
- Rubric Reliability is scheduled for completion by March 7. For this assessment, each participant must partner with someone from their discipline and independently score the same 10 documents.
- Beginning/End of semester assessments should be completed by June 1. This assessment involves rating 10 first drafts of an early assignment and 10 first drafts of a later assignment to determine an average student improvement over one semester.

Discussion: Several questions emerged regarding the plan. These questions mostly concerned the Beginning/End of semester assessments and include how to account for variables such as progressively more difficult writing assignments, reliability of random sampling versus tracking individual students, and inter-rater reliability. An additional concern was raised about where this initial testing fit within the larger concern regarding assessment of WE as a whole or the improvement of writing on campus. Roger reiterated that for accreditation purposes, we need to compile data but also demonstrate how the data supports actual program improvements.

Rick agreed to bring these concerns back to the OAC in preparation for the February 8 & 9 presentations.

Rick suggested that the Writing Committee approach five areas of concern regarding writing across campus: Assessment, Faculty Support, Student Support, Intake Assessment, Administration of WE.

Committee members volunteered to work on one of the areas.

- I. Assessment: Rick
- II. Faculty Support: Laxman and John
- III. Student Support: Julie, Brenda
- IV. Intake Assessment: Julie, Josephine, and Roger
- V. Administration: Greg, Scott, and Martin

Each group will meet and develop action steps to present to the committee by the April meeting. Future meetings will be structured around reports from each group.

Discussion: Brainstorms and concerns about the charge of each group. Martin proposed that a sixth area might be developed around the relationship of technology to writing or it might be weaved into some of the other areas; Scott mentioned that Clearfield does not currently have a WE-based curriculum; Roger suggested that faculty and student support probably fold into each other; Martin and Greg discussed surveying WE faculty from Fall 2005 to determine needs.

The committee's next meeting will be March 3, when each of the five "subcommittees" will report on their initial activities.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Van Dyke