



Report of the Faculty Senate Assessment Committee

The committee did not convene in January; however, several issues arose.

The committee chair was instructed to seek guidance from the Vice President for Academic Affairs regarding the necessity of completing an annual report. The VP said that he was not that concerned with the write-up itself, but that the work in compiling the course/section assessments needed to be done. The write-up, being merely a summary of what is provided to the committee by the Research Analyst, is not particularly cumbersome by itself. Therefore, it is logical that the committee should continue to write the report.

Concerning the ongoing issue of **assessing all courses**, it does appear that the departments are already expected to keep track of which courses have been assessed, and that it is within their scope and authority to create an assessment plan for their own courses. Repeating information from the previous report (12/14), this information is also available through the Research Analyst's office.

The role of the Assessment Committee, then, should continue as it was before. Rather than second-guessing the departments or questioning whether they are assessing their courses in a timely fashion, as colleagues the committee would merely tabulate the course assessments that we receive. In other colleges that have similar committees, the committees likewise have no authority beyond assembling and collating the information that they receive.

Finally, three faculty members have inquired as to whether the Assessment Committee should be involved in program-level assessments. These assessments are conducted by their respective program committees, and conducting such assessments is part of their mission. The committee chair talked with length with the Vice President for Academic Affairs about the matter. He was firm regarding the fact that the assessment of the success of programs belongs rightly to the program committees. Furthermore, it is likely to be the case that each program is assessed differently – using different criteria and instruments. These factors would make it unwieldy for a single committee to accomplish, and a committee comprised of persons who have no expertise in the program areas would be improper for such a purpose. The Assessment Committee serves only to assemble and collate the course assessments coming from different departments.