

University Assessment Meeting
August 6, 2004
KL430

Present at the meeting were: Jeffrey Cass, Juan Lira, Mary Treviño, Bonnie Rudolph, Rodney Webb, Conchita Hickey, Ned Koch, Dan Mott and Carol Waters.

Dr. Cass reported on the status of assessments submitted to him, distributing a list of degree programs for which assessments were not yet submitted and complete. These included Certification programs from Biology, History, Social Studies, English Language Arts and Reading, English Language Arts and Social Studies, and early childhood education. Members discussed the need for collaboration between the degree fields and the college of education to ensure that the assessments for these degrees include all aspects of the programs. It was suggested that a committee be formed including those responsible for the substantive fields and those in education who deal with certification.

In addition, it was suggested that there is a need for a committee for the Master of Interdisciplinary Studies degree. Dr. Waters agreed to pursue the formation of each of these committees in collaboration with the Dean of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Cass also noted that the immediate demand was for completion of the compliance reports, saying that progress was good but much had to be done before the deadline of August 9. He mentioned that some delay was caused by the new, collapsed criteria which required reorganizing some of the material.

Following the compliance reports, the next item of concentration will be the QEP which, of course, will be ongoing over the next five years. Dr. Jones will present a discussion of the QEP and BEAMS at the Faculty Assembly. The idea is to transform the campus culture into a learning community.

Ms. Trevino discussed the Scholars' Alliance for Learning and Teaching that will be open to all faculty and will encourage them to visit other campuses and participate, generally, in creatively improving student learning. Ms. Hickey noted that she would work with Randy Koch to connect with the schools in this effort and suggested TEA might have some money to support this.

Ms. Hickey said that the decision has not been made yet whether to recommend the Compass or Plato as a means of testing new students to develop a baseline in reading ability, but one of her staff had attended a Plato workshop, discovering that Plato has many flexible characteristics that may make it desirable to use. She will follow up on this as her office gathers information.

Dr. Cass reminded the group that September 15 is the deadline for getting assessment reports up on the web. Webmaster, Mario Peña will be working full time on SACs. The external review will begin in November. The onsite review team will be on campus April 4,5,6.

Faculty will be encouraged to look at the assessment reports at the beginning of the Fall semester. The next UAC meeting will be held during the first week of September.