The committee on the Assessment of Institutional Effectiveness, 2012-2013.

Committee members: Andrew Przeworski (Mathematics); William Russell (English); Timothy Callahan (Geology and Environmental Studies); Angela Flenner (Library); Amy Kolak (Psychology); Jenifer Kopfman (Communication); Shawn Morrison (French and Italian); Gioconda Quesada (Marketing and Supply Chain Management); William Veal (Teacher Education)

In our report to the Senate in the fall, we indicated the following possible directions for this committee in the future:

1). We would be the committee in charge of planning out an assessment system for the entire college. That is: what will be done when, by whom, each year. Since we are now in the age of constant assessment, we need to have a system that everyone understands and follows. We would work with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to map out a possible plan this year and present it to the Senate in the spring for consideration. It would include the following: brain-storming ideas and systems, checking in with appropriate stake-holders and door-keepers, determining who looks at what data, who decides what to do with what data, how information is shared, etc.

2). We would work with the General Education committee on how to assess General Education courses once the system is determined and begins. We would facilitate meetings and coordinate multiple-group evaluations of assessments, rubrics, and data. We would not be the only group evaluating the assessments, rubrics, and data; we would facilitate and oversee on behalf of the senate and the faculty.

Some aspects of an assessment plan are already being formulated by Penny Brunner in OIEP. In the fall of 2012 we chose to focus immediately on the aspects that are not in place. These included assessing the Strategic Plan, the Study Abroad program, and performance of chairs and deans.

Throughout the year, we reviewed some of these areas. We met with the director of Institutional Research, Jim Posey, and with the Director of Study Abroad Programs, Andrew Sobiesuo, who provided us with data on Study Abroad participation.

We met with the Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, Penny Brunner, who provided us with a possible plan for future assessment of the institution.

The majority of the spring semester was taken up with reviewing the general education recertification courses. The chair of this committee, plus two other members, reviewed all of the proposals. At least one representative from this committee attended all of the general education committee meetings to discuss each course proposal and its assessment plan.
The committee’s defined role is to assess the institution, however, rather than General Education. The current structure of the committee doesn’t seem optimal for involvement in the General Education assessment process. There are members of the committee who have no experience with General Education and there are other members of the committee who have little knowledge of how to use assessment artifacts.

The committee members feel that constructing a step-by-step assessment plan fits more closely with the committee’s charge and capabilities. We wrote a proposal to send to the by-laws committee on how to update the description and possibly change the make-up of this committee in the future so that it could more effectively, and with purpose, assess the institution. Since each part of the institution would be assessed, we considered requiring at least one representative from each school to be included in the membership, leaving the other three members to represent other areas of the institution, such as the library, etc. We sent a preliminary proposal to the by-laws committee, knowing that it was too late for action, but requesting feedback. That committee had several questions which would need to be addressed by a future committee if they choose to move forward with any changes. That may not be necessary, other than up-dating some of the titles and entities that have changed since the last definition of the committee was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Morrison, Chair, 2012-2013