

Curriculum Committee Report for May 8, 2012

Eleven faculty members met in Burton Lab 205 to assess artifacts in Social Science, Fine Art, Oral Communication, Critical Thinking, History and Natural Science. Several assessors did not complete their assigned areas and submitted their reviews later to Carrie McCray.

Process

The process involved two assessors reviewing 50 artifacts in each General Education area totaling 100 artifacts using Tk20. If an area did not have 100 artifacts uploaded on Tk20, then assessors reviewed all the artifacts. For example, Critical Thinking had 27 artifacts so both assessors reviewed the same 27 artifacts. If a General Education area had more than 100 artifacts, each assessor randomly selected 50 from the listed classes.

Problems Encountered

- 1) The same materials were uploaded several times in the artifacts. It would be more efficient to upload artifacts that meet General Education rubrics rather than class objectives. However, this may need to be a faculty decision since it would involve more work on the individual instructor.
- 2) Scanned handwritten lab reports were hard for assessors to read.
- 3) Group projects were difficult to assess as numerous students uploaded the same PowerPoint slides and it was hard to distinguish which students grasped which concepts.
- 4) PowerPoint slides tend to be too sketchy for assessment.
- 5) Quizzes could not be used for assessment.
- 6) Sometimes the artifact's description was not accurately provided so assessors were not sure of the expectations.
- 7) Numerous students' artifacts were empty files so it would be beneficial if this could be identified before assessors opened files needlessly.
- 8) Some faculty did not attach General Education rubrics so the artifacts could not be used for assessment.
- 9) Some faculty members rewrote their respective General Education rubrics so their data had to be pulled separately after searching for the artifacts.
- 10) One assessor did not complete the assessment and only one only one assessor completed history.

Recommendations

- 1) Discuss with faculty if one artifact should represent all the rubric components or if numerous artifacts can represent rubric's components.
- 2) Many of the artifacts don't really work with the rubric. It would be helpful if the faculty would sit down together and talk about GE assessment as either the assignments should be changed or the rubric.

- 3) Close the loop on this part of the assessment by distributing the data to the relevant parties in order to get good, useful data.
- 4) Train faculty to design effective assignments for assessment purposes on Tk20.
- 5) Train students to upload assignments on Tk20.
- 6) Since it is expected that each course will have artifacts provided for review, use random sampling.
- 7) Set a percentage of each area rather than a number of artifacts to be reviewed. However, this may involve recruiting more assessors since some areas have more classes than others (e.g. communications versus critical thinking).
- 8) Provide continuity in evaluators. For example, if an assessor does Social Sciences this year then try to get at least one experienced evaluator in each area the next time classes are assessed.
- 9) Provide some joint training for both faculty and evaluators in each GE area to determine what, for example, a “developing” argument looks like. I would also like for the faculty in each GE area to know what specific problems we had with the rubrics/assignments.
- 10) Considering the amount of time it takes to assess an area, a higher stipend than \$100 would be appropriate. It is recommended assessors reviewing two General Education areas (twice the artifacts) should be compensated twice the amount.

General Education Assessment Faculty

Natural Science: Anthony Lungstrum & Cindy Robb

Social Science: Alan Ensor & Shawn Hull

Fine Art: Bob Elliott & Joe Potter

Critical Thinking: Tom Frankman & Shawn Hull

Oral Communication: Joe Potter & Greg Smith—estimated 45 artifacts reviewed as some students did not upload assignments.

History: Tom Frankman

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie McCray & Brenda Popp

Chairpersons