

UCAP
October 15, 2007
Main 251
MINUTES

Attending: Virginia Broaddus, Roberta Dorr, Kaye Gapen, Lynn Johnson, Liliana Losada, Robert Maguire, Sharon Mailey, Robert Redmond, Mary Reintsma, and Debra Tervalá

Dr. Bob Redmond, UCAP Chair, convened the meeting at 3:02 PM. The minutes from the September 10 minutes were approved upon a motion for Dr. Sharon Mailey, seconded by Ms. Kaye Gapen, without discussion.

The review of the Sociology Program's Third Year Report (2006-2007) will be undertaken at the November meeting. A draft copy of the review for the English Program (2006-2007) Third Year Report was distributed. Discussion ensued about the findings, which included praise of the program for work done to date as well as a request for more analysis of data pertaining to specific goals. After discussion, it was decided that the report should encourage the program to continue gathering data, with the recognition that such gathering should occur as additional institutional support is available, and that the program should implement protocols using inter-rater reliability in order to ensure as much standardization of assessment as possible. The importance of involving part-time faculty as well as the Writing Center staff was also discussed. Further, UCAP members discussed the significance of incorporating information literacy as a means of teaching students about plagiarism and intellectual property. Conversation around the ability to assess information literacy and to incorporate tutorials about it into foundational English courses was held. Ultimately, the reviewers were asked to revise the report to include these collegial amendments, and the report was subsequently approved for distribution to the Program chair.

Dr. Ginger Broaddus then reported on the status of 2007-2008 program review and distributed a revised chart indicating that SPS BADM and HUMR (for both CAS and SPS) will be reviewed during the 2007-2008 academic year. The committee then discussed at some length the role of external reviewers as part of the assessment process, hearing from several members who both questioned and affirmed the role of such reviewers. After considerable conversation, it was decided that the external reviewers could bring important points to Trinity and that their perspective will be valued. Bob suggested that as part of the program review, we should continue making clear any approving agency's expectations (e.g., Middle States, NCATE, CCNE) and that we should also continue conversations with other institutions who have gone through a peer review process involving external reviewers, noting the importance of the collegial approach undergirding such review.

At Bob's request, Ginger then referred to copies of Student Learning Outcomes that had been disseminated to members prior to the meeting. The committee expressed appreciation for these models, created by Middle States, and asked for additional materials in this vein. Ginger noted she would explore the possibility of getting these materials (updated in 2007), which Dr. Liliana Losada noted had been preliminarily used as part of earlier program reviews.

Bob then discussed the role of Dr. Ross Miller, Association of American Colleges and Universities, who will serve as a Visiting Scholar of Assessment for Learning at Trinity, 2007-2008. Bob indicated that Ross might be invited to a UCAP meeting to discuss assessment models and how he might be of assistance to programs undergoing review, a suggestion enthusiastically received by the committee.

Dr. Bobbie Dorr moved that the committee adjourn at 3:55; Dr. Mary Reintsma seconded the motion. UCAP will meet again on November 12, 2007, at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Broaddus