To: Faculty Assembly
From: Lisa Glidden, Faculty Assembly Chair
       Scott Furlong, Provost
Date: February 3, 2020

Draft Task Force on Evaluating Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Rationale:
At SUNY Oswego, we assess our major programs annually and in our self-studies and our general education courses on a rotating basis. More than ten years ago we became more explicit about our student learning outcomes and created processes by which they are assessed as a result of preparing for the 2012 Middle States accreditation visit. We have established a culture of assessment on our campus. We recognize that assessment of student learning was already happening, and many faculty were reflecting on their courses on a regular basis, but due to external pressures for accountability of higher education and an increased demand for quantitative measures by accreditation bodies, our processes became much more formalized. This formalization was replicated nation-wide. Ten years later, many of the initial advocates for assessment are taking a step back, assessing assessment, and recommending changes to the assessment machines we have created (Lederman 2019; Warner 2019).

Charge:
1. Identify our assessment practices for each of the Schools and general education
2. Consider whether there is a need for assessing all (100%) courses versus a statistically valid sample for purposes of reporting.
3. Recommend assessment processes that are meaningful, integrated, and don’t “consume more energy than they produce” (Warner 2019)
4. Identify recommendations for assessment practices that will establish a “well-worn path” between assessment, improving learning, and allocating resources, as recommended by Middle States.

Timeline:
February 17, 2020: nominations sought at Faculty Assembly; call for administration designees
March 2, 2020: Elections for faculty and professional staff seats; administration designees announced
April 17, 2020: Task force report electronically presented to Faculty Assembly Executive Board
April 20 - 27, 2020: Review by the Academic Policies Council, General Education Council Graduate Council, Priorities and Planning, UUP, departments, and other interested groups completed and comments submitted to task force
May 4, 2020: Task Force final report due to Faculty Assembly

Membership:

The task force shall consist of eleven members:
Six (6) Faculty members and/or professional staff elected by the Faculty Assembly as follows:
Two (2) CLAS faculty members – no more than one from any subdivision
One (1) Library faculty
One (1) SCMA faculty member
One (1) School of Business faculty member
One (1) School of Education faculty member
One (1) representative from Institutional Research
Trevor Jorgenson, Director of Assessment, convener
Chris Lalonde, Director of General Education
Two (2) Representatives from Academic Affairs selected by the President

Approved by the Faculty Assembly Executive Board 01/27/20

Bibliography

Gracia, Susan. “Reflections from a Director of Assessment” Issues in Teaching and Learning 7. Available at:
https://www.academia.edu/1276334/Reflections_from_a_Director_of_Assessment

Lederman, Doug. 2019. “Harsh Take on Assessment…from Assessment Pros,” Inside Higher Ed, April 17. Available at:

Stitt-Bergh, Monica. 2016. ”Conception, Implementation, and Evaluation of an ‘Assessment Culture’,” paper presented at the Evaluation and Design Conference, October 24 – 29, Atlanta, GA.