

UT MARTIN ASSESSMENT NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

Assessment Workshops Recap

Thanks to everyone who attended the assessment workshops on May 10-11. We had 162 faculty on Tuesday and 128 staff on Wednesday—phenomenal numbers for the week after graduation!

Tami Eggleston's presentation took us deeper into SACS COC expectations for institutional effectiveness and general education standards, and Doug Whitlock was on hand to provide an external reviewer's perspective on our work. Dr. Eggleston and Dr. Whitlock are our external consultants and are providing valuable, candid perspectives on our work.

In the workshops, Tami reminded everyone of the top ten things to keep in mind while you are preparing your assessment reports:

Tami's Top Ten

1. Goals and outcomes should be related to the mission and the institution, and should be important for students.
2. Assessment and evaluation should occur at all levels: course, unit/program, and institutional.
3. Use multiple assessments!
4. Research and public service are part of our mission and connections between research, service, and our mission should be clear.
5. All programs must be assessed and evaluated.
6. Planning and assessment is ongoing, and the data you collect should help inform your decisions.
7. Sampling is fine as long as your sample is representative for your unit.
8. Use methods and instruments for assessment that are suited to your goals.

9. When presenting your data and conclusions, talk in the past tense—what have you done based on your data?
10. Provide solid evidence of improvement, not a plan for eventual improvement.

Handouts and PowerPoint presentations from all of Tami's workshops are now available on the assessment website <http://www.utm.edu/assessment/assessment.php>. Log into the SharePoint site at the bottom of the page and look for the folder titled "Workshop Materials."

Dr. Eggleston and Dr. Whitlock have both spoken very highly about the amount of work you have done, the quality of the work you have done, and the enthusiasm and engagement you have shown throughout this process. They have both commented that the progress we have made is impressive, but it is critical that we keep this momentum going.

From Data to Decisions

Units continue to use data to inform decisions and improve services to faculty, staff, and students. Recent examples include:

The **Department of Educational Studies** surveyed personnel from area school districts to determine their most critical needs for current and future teachers. "Classroom management skills" was identified as a major need, so the department identified faculty to be trained in the Classroom Organization and Management Program (COMP). They have now implemented the COMP program to provide classroom management training for their students.

Another part of the Educational Studies survey identified particular areas in K-12 math as needs for in-service teacher training. The **STEM Center for Teaching and Learning** is

using these identified areas as a basis for designing summer workshops for Northwest Tennessee K-12 teachers. As part of these workshops, complete ready-to-implement lesson plans are being provided and more training on using varied and high quality questions in the classroom is being implemented.

Faculty and staff in the **Paul Meek Library** have done an extensive survey of their print and electronic journals, evaluating data on use and access, the number of journals available, the cost of providing print vs. electronic journals, and other factors. As a result, they have changed some of their print journals to electronic, changed some of their journal providers, expanded the number of journals available, and in the process, expanded their capacity to serve students at our off-campus sites as well as on campus.

UT Martin faculty and staff have noted multiple issues with our advising process and our current advising software. This spring, we evaluated several degree program/advising

software programs and chose Degreeworks as our new advising software. Degreeworks will be programmed with our degree requirements in the summer and fall 2016. We expect to have limited implementation in spring 2017 and full implementation by fall 2017.

Where Are We Now and Where Are We Going?

This month we have focused on finishing and collecting departmental and unit reports, providing assistance and feedback when needed, and beginning the draft of the Monitoring Report.

Progress Chart: This month, our progress chart demonstrates how many final reports we have already received for our Monitoring Report (as of noon May 25). Final numbers and some review information will appear in the June newsletter in the dashboard format.

