

NEW MEXICO ASSESSMENT TASK FORCE

March 9, 2007

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

NMSU Albuquerque Center, Classroom C

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Marsha Lichtenstein, Wesley Thomas, Teresa Crafton, Pat Seitz, Susan Wood, Karen Luper, Andi Penner, Harry Sheski, Jozi Deleon, Carmen Santana-Melgoza

The meeting was called to order at 3:11 p.m.

NMHEAR Conference Presentation

All agreed that the Task Force presentation at the NMHEAR Conference held in February in Albuquerque was a success. Congratulations and thanks went to Susan Wood for all her work as conference chair and for acting as our conference liaison and making all of the arrangements for our participation. Panel presenters were also congratulated for their excellent contribution as were all who participated in the poster session. The conference presentation will be a yearly event through which the Task Force will give updates on its work.

HED Update

Jozi Deleon is completing her 18-month assignment at the HED and is leaving to return to NMSU next month. The Task Force expressed its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Jozi for her leadership, encouragement, and support of the Task Force's work.

Dr. Maggie George will be the new HED liaison to the Task Force. She will be joining us at the April meeting. We look forward to meeting her and working under her leadership.

Jozi distributed the latest round of courses that had been submitted to the HED for the articulation matrix. She explained the reasons for some of the courses being rejected and encouraged revision and resubmission of those courses that were not approved.

Response to the Spellings Commission Report

Carmen distributed copies of the Spellings Commission Report for the members to read for the April meeting discussion on the paper that the Task Force will be authoring. The members agreed that our paper will address only the student learning outcomes section of the report. Carmen will research responses to the Spellings Report and distribute them to the members before the next meeting. Members will read the responses and share their findings. A suggestion was made that we start by investigating if other states have written position papers in response to the report. These position papers might help us develop our own response. It was also suggested that we might

consider starting on a smaller scale with the response and later building on that.

Progress to Date

To date we have agreed that we will recommend that all institutions prepare a yearly student learning outcomes assessment report that will be posted to their website. The report will address the general education core competencies that were assessed during that year, the procedures used in the assessment, the results, and an explanation of how the results were used to make modifications and improvements.

We discussed how the reports would be evaluated and agreed that the task force does not want to recommend any type of monitoring or enforcement policy imposed on institutions relative to their student learning outcomes assessment activities. Instead, the NMHEAR conference would be used as the yearly event to bring assessment individuals together to discuss their institution's work in assessment of general education and to share their results. Suggestions were made on how this could be organized including the following:

- "Birds of a Feather" roundtable discussions and feedback sessions in which individuals in the various general education areas (communications, math, etc.) would come together to share information.
- A pre-conference workshop session in which the various areas would discuss their assessment reports and activities.
- Add an "Assessment Day" to the conference which would be funded by the HED and for the purpose of "blending the state" by having institutions present their general education/other areas assessment activities and results.

Taking the Show on the Road

At the conference, Jozi encouraged the Task Force to share its recommendations with others in the state. The following suggestions were made toward accomplishing this goal:

- Submit a proposal to HLC for the 2008 annual conference
- Submit a proposal to the 2007 Assessment Institute held in Indianapolis and hosted by Indiana University and Purdue University.
- Do presentations at the NM Summit, the NM NCATE, and the NM Association of Teachers meetings
- Do presentations at institutions throughout the state.

Website and State Directory of "Assessmentistas"

As part of publicizing the Task Force's recommendations, it was suggested that we develop a website. Carmen will look into this.

It was also suggested that we develop a directory of assessment individuals in the state's institutions. Carmen will develop a draft survey to send out and will bring it to the next meeting for feedback.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m..