

NM Assessment Task Force Meeting
May 25, 2007
NMSU Albuquerque Center

Carmen Santana-Melgoza called the meeting to order at 1:10. Attendees included Carmen Santana-Melgoza, Chris Burnham, Scott Zeman, Andi Penner, Teresa Crafton, Karen Luper, Susan Wood, Pat Seitz, and Debra Teachman

The task force first discussed the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2007. It was decided that no meeting would be held in August due to the intense workload of that month for everyone.

Discussion about the need for a clear reporting procedure and timeline with monitoring that reporting is done was extensive. It was agreed that there needs to be an annual deadline for posting of assessment results on institutional websites. An annual rotation of reporting that meets the needs of the individual institution was recommended.

As a task force, we recommend that HED review institutional reports, provide feedback, and encourage institutions to share information regarding assessment on a frequent basis.

We recommend that HED's role is supportive to each institution (in keeping with the language of the Carnegie Foundation document reviewed at the meeting). Scott and Carmen agreed to work on actual language for this portion of the recommendation, which Carmen said she would send a draft of by email.

We determined that we would work with Maggie George at HED to draft our proposal to the legislature that would be structured as follows:

- 1) One page proposal re: reporting of assessment, monitoring of reporting, and sharing of reports
- 2) Appendices
 - a. Names of Task Force members and institutions they represent
 - b. Position paper re: academic assessment of core curriculum
 - c. Sample forms used for reporting purposes

The Deadline for our finalized proposal to go to HED is November 9.

We discussed the position paper prepared by Erin O'Neill re: assessment of student learning in post-secondary education in NM in response to Margaret Spelling's report. We determined that we don't want to directly address each point Spelling made in our position paper that we present to the legislature, but to construct an argument particular to our needs (while not ignoring the issues Spelling raised).

Chris Burnham offered to share a position paper he has prepared for another purpose that may provide us with possible points/language for ours as well.

We decided that the issues covered in sections 5, 6, 7, & 8 of Erin's paper are issues we don't want to go into with the legislature.

We need to make sure that our documents are focused specifically on General Education Assessment, not assessment at large. With our passion about assessment, it is easy for all of us to get too broad in our discussion. We need to make sure to limit the discussion appropriately to Gen Ed in our documentation for the legislature.

We need to make clear that assessment is scholarly work and that many of our institutions across the state have been developing strong assessment processes. We need to support the good work being done and find ways to incorporate it into the state process rather than introducing additional tasks and measures.

In response to the Spelling report, we need to make sure that we have solid language in our proposal and position paper re: access, transparency, innovation, and accountability.

We need to make sure that links to institutional assessment sites and articles are readily available statewide. Carmen will arrange for our task force to have a page on the HED Website where this can be done.

We need to focus greater attention on sharing and outreach – for example, inviting colleges to come to present their assessment processes and results and ask questions, and/or for us to hold meetings at various institutions where we can have that presentation from them as a part of the program/meeting.

A mechanism needs to be established for revising the gen ed competencies that have been established on a regular basis to determine how valid they are and whether they are really measuring what we need to be measuring over time.

Most of the institutions represented at the meeting indicated that their local assessment committees/groups are in the process of putting together and making judgements about rubrics for measuring the established gen ed competencies at the present time.

The NMHEAR planning committee will meet on June 18 in Ruidoso. Susan Wood indicated that the planning committee with discussion inclusion of specific opportunities to share institutional gen ed assessment processes and results at the next NMHEAR conference.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.