

Voluntary System of Accountability Student Learning Outcomes Task Force

Summary Note #1: November 9, 2007

Attending: Roberta Allen (Business Information Systems), Benjamin Brown (student), Eileen Evans (Institutional Effectiveness), Marcia Fetters, *chair* (Education), Sandra Glista (Speech Pathology and Audiology), Kevin Knutson (Arts and Sciences), Lisa Kruse (Sociology), Jonathan Pugh (Institutional Effectiveness), Vladimir Risukhin (Aviation), Pamela Rooney (Business Information Systems), Zoann Snyder (Sociology) **Absent:** Heidi Egloff (student), Fred Sitkins (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering)

Fetters called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. and welcomed task force members.

1. **Overview** of VSA (Evans, Fetters):

- National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) and American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) developed VSA program to increase transparency and accountability in public higher education.
- NASULGC and AASCU secured funding from Lumina Foundation to set up several task forces.
- Task forces developed five-page, three-section, Web-based document titled Voluntary System of Accountability.
- There is currently no fee for institutions to adopt the VSA, but this may change.
- VSA will enable WMU to examine its strengths and weaknesses at both the institutional and programmatic level.
- Section I (family and student information) data are drawn from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and Common Data Set and are already available.
- Section II (student engagement) data are drawn from National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and are already available.
- Section III (student learning outcomes):
 - Data must be gathered using one of three assessment instruments: Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA), Measure of Academic Proficiency (MAPP), or Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP).
 - Because many institutions, including WMU, do not currently report on student learning outcomes using CLA, MAPP, or CAAP, full implementation of the VSA College Portrait template is not mandated until 2011.
 - VSA SLO Task Force will recommend the most appropriate of the three instruments.
 - Key modules are writing and critical thinking.

2. **Charge** to the task force (Evans):

- Evans' role is to implement the instrument the task force deems most appropriate, not to favor any one instrument.
- Evans to gather available information on 2003 pilot study of CAAP test.
- Glista to seek test-specific feedback from colleague at Kalamazoo College.

3. **Timeline and Tasks:**

- In view of number of campus groups that will offer comment, task force will make its recommendation by February 1, 2008.
- Fetters to look into practicality of setting up centralized platform for task force (Vista or iWebfolio).
- Pugh to request review copies of each test.

4. **Next meeting:**

- Friday, December 7, 10 A.M. to 11:30 A.M., College of Arts and Sciences Conference Room, 2302 Friedmann Hall.

Fetters adjourned the meeting at 11 A.M.