Day 15: Did you know that the on-going implementation of CMU assessment activities reflects good practices?


The institution’s processes and methodologies reflect good practice and involve substantial faculty and staff members’ participation. Student learning outcomes were based on the Degree Qualifications Profile after a campus-wide presentation by Paul Gaston, followed by sessions led by Terry Rhodes on the Association of American College's VALUE rubrics as part of the assessment of Essential Learning (EL) outcomes. Noted experts in the assessment field, such as Gloria Rogers and Susan Hatfield, have conducted campus presentations largely in the form of departmental workshops to address more specific assessment questions. At the departmental level, the AAC&U rubrics have been instrumental in guiding data collection and assessment. A recent workshop by Linda Nilson facilitated faculty discussions on clarifying how critical thinking should be defined and assessed at CMU. These faculty development workshops on assessment have been well-attended over the last four years.

The Faculty Senate's Assessment Committee plays an active leadership role in collaboration with the Director of Assessment of Student Learning and the Faculty Assessment Coordinator. The Assessment Handbook and Assessment Roadmap (see attachments) and other supporting materials document the campus’ adoption of best practices for articulating student learning outcomes, collecting data, and analyzing results that lead to actionable steps for program improvement. Development and calibration of rubrics and templates by the Assessment Committee have supported program faculty's efforts.

The committee's members, as the assessment point person in each department, are the key link between that group's work and that of the program faculty, thereby ensuring alignment of learning outcomes across majors and degree levels. Increasing numbers of faculty members not only are working with assessment in their own discipline, but also participate in the review of Essential Learning assessment and assist faculty members on the WCCC and Montrose campuses to more fully develop assessment processes at those sites.

To learn more, log into MAVzone and click on the document link found in the CMU Assurance Argument for HLC channel (top left on the Home tab) for the full text of CMU's Assurance Argument. Links to supporting evidence are identified by underlined words but are not available through the PDF version.

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