

**SOC Meeting Minutes**  
**March 11, 2010 – 3:00-4:30 p.m., CTL Conference Room**

In Attendance: Derek Borman (Chair), Sam Martinez, Tim Florschuetz, Ly Tran-Nguyen, Peter Brown, Jim Mabry (VPAA), Matt Ashcraft (ORP), Dennis Mitchell (ORP).

Report from meeting with VPAA: Matt discussed Derek's and his recent meeting with Vice President of Academic Affairs Jim Mabry. Matt commented that the meeting went well and VPAA Mabry showed visual and verbal support of the importance of SOC. Derek added that VPAA Mabry understands the committee needs new members and was open to the idea of SOC recommending a yearly learning focus for faculty (VPAA Mabry suggested writing and communication). Derek commented that the committee should consider an outcome that would be difficult for faculty to brush off as something they already incorporate in their classrooms. VPAA Mabry will be at next meeting and this topic will be on the agenda.

Recruiting New Members: Derek said they also expressed concerns about a lack of personnel staffing the committee and encouraged members to come up with faculty who might be able to join SOC: faculty who would contribute something and enjoy it. In order to take a more deliberate recruiting step, Derek will draft a personal invitation for faculty to join the committee to be signed by himself, John Griffith and VPAA Mabry.

Tim mentioned that "FACT" faculty may be interested and that it's important for SOC to have more representation from each department. He noted that SOC is the only current committee that deals with teaching and learning. Peter commented that faculty are focused on assessment within their discipline and tend to not to see themselves as a college in the sense of conferring degrees. He asked how SOC can tie assessment into other committees or programs in order to create interest. Matt said that other than demonstrating evidence of student learning at a very high level, assessment is a statement about students' general education experience at MCC. Ly commented that SOC is critical to accreditation. Derek added that interest in SOC is lost when accreditation isn't a pressing issue of the moment and that SOC probably won't be able to convince anyone in near future that stakes need to be raised for testing. At the next DCA meeting, Derek will challenge each chair to identify one person in their dept and recommend to that person they participate in SOC.

SOC Chair 2010-2011: Derek told the committee that it is still in need of a chair for the next academic year and asked for opinions about a new SOC member chair the committee. The committee seemed hesitant of the idea and Ly suggested sending out emails to former SOC members to search for a new chair.

ROC Grants: Derek told the committee that they should have 2-3 ROC grant proposals to review at the next meeting. ORP will email copies of ROC grants to members for review prior to the April meeting.

Korean Council for University Education- Derek and Matt recently met with members of the Korean Council for University Education about student outcomes assessment at MCC. The delegation is interested in assessment at all levels of the university system and became interested in MCC's program after seeing the college's CHEA award. Derek said that he thought the delegation learned a lot from the talk and that their biggest question was what purpose the assessment program served. The delegation also asked if SOC would be willing to share an assessment instrument. The committee felt that current

instruments should not be distributed to external parties, but that old versions of the Arts and Humanities assessment along with links to the Watson and Glaser Problem Solving assessment could be given to the delegation.

Assessment Week 2009-2010: Dennis provided an update on Workplace Skills collection and processing: 22 of 30 sections had been returned with a high completion rate. Overall, faculty comments about the assessment were positive, and the new barcode procedure was successful.

Faculty Surveys: Derek informed the committee that faculty surveys were distributed but some wording and layout issues may hinder getting the ranking-type data SOC was hoping to receive for two of the survey questions.

Student Focus Groups: The student focus groups scheduled for Assessment Week were cancelled due to low student participation. Derek suggested the committee aim to reschedule focus groups for the week of April 5<sup>th</sup> and try to recruit directly out of their classes. Tim voiced concern over having students from his class potentially in the focus group he would moderate; Derek agreed and said that he, Matt, and Dennis can run the focus groups if that becomes an issue.

New Assessment Summary Report: Matt told the committee that Institutional Advancement is working on designing a new executive summary report for assessment results.

Information Literacy Revision: Tim updated the committee on the progress of revising the Information Literacy assessment: everyone sees a need to create a new instrument but he's had no luck in recruiting a cluster. He noted an agreement that information literacy is a separate outcome from technology literacy. Derek said that the instrument can't be offered again until it is revised, and that the Workplace Skills assessment is also in need of revision. He asked the committee if rules for creating a cluster existed, and Ly said that no rules had ever been made.

Future Meeting Dates: Peter suggested that SOC move forward with a May meeting to have a brainstorming session with people like Naomi and Shereen to see how SOC can tie in with other committees on campus and get more involvement. The committee tentatively agreed to meet on May 6.

April 9 - CTL Conference Room, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

May 6 - TBD, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.