

SOC Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2010 – 3:00-4:30 p.m., CTL Conference Room

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

ROC grant reports: 2009 ROC grant recipients were invited to present a summary of their project to SOC. Nora Reyes presented information from the MCC book club. Mary Al-Saleh and Kathy Pollard presented a summary of their project “PDA's in Nursing Education Courses.”

SOC learning focus: Derek led the committee in a discussion to identify a specific outcome for the VPAA and SOC to push as a campus-wide outcome for the next year; the goal is to encourage faculty to pay special attention to the outcome in their curriculum. Matt said that the outcome would be the “learning focus” that SOC recommends and the VPAA champions with faculty.

Derek mentioned that he kicked around the idea of critical thinking/problem solving but thought that faculty would too easily brush it off as something they already incorporate in their classroom. He suggested that the committee pick an area to create an intentional mismatch that would be more difficult for faculty to brush off and require more work for them to bring into their classrooms.

Matt said that he is drawn to this idea because department chairs have indicated that they'd rather focus more attention on teaching and learning rather than some of the other tasks they are assigned. Peter suggested devoting the May meeting to determine the learning focus. Jim suggested that the focus has to be something clear, concrete and actionable within a broad variety of disciplines.

Strengthening SOC: Matt suggested VPAA Mabry and the SOC Chair target faculty to recruit from their departments for SOC members. Derek said that in the last DCA meeting, he explained SOC's situation and potential disruptions caused by lack of participation. John suggested sending out an email to explain the importance of SOC when committee lists come out. Tim mentioned that it would be ideal to have representation from every discipline.

Executive summary design options: Derek passed around potential design options from IA for a new assessment executive summary brochure. No action was taken.

Student focus groups: Derek told the committee that the student focus groups went well. Overall, students were “into it” and talkative.

SOC Chair 2010-2011: Derek reminded the committee that there is still no SOC Chair in place for next academic year.

Future Meetings: May 6th, 3:00-4:30 p.m., room TDB.