



Core Objectives Assessment Team (COAT)

Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2014
9:00 – 10:00 AM, CHEC – 225

- 1. Introduction of New Members:** Bill Ardis, Millie Black, James Scott Brown, Wendy Commons, Lisa Kirby, Michael McConachie, Tracy Meyer, Elizabeth Pannell, Gina Perkins, Heather Rawls, Sue Anne Rische, Clint Starr and Meredith Wang.
- 2. COAT Mission – Brief Review:** COAT is responsible for overseeing implementation of the general education core curriculum assessment process, training assessors and maintaining the rubrics.

COAT is charged with: Making recommendations for measures; acting as a sounding board for assessment logistics; developing and maintaining the rubrics for each core objective; communicating assessment logistics to the other faculty; rating student work using the rubrics; analyzing the results; making recommendations for improvement.

- 3. Assessment Cycle for 2014-2015:** Courses providing assessment data to the Institutional Effectiveness Office –Areas: Communication Skills (Fall 2014 Courses: MATH 1342, DRAM 1310, DANC 2303; Spring 2015 Courses: BIOL 2402, GOVT 2306, ECON 2301), Personal Responsibility (Fall 2014 Course: ENGL 2332; Spring 2015 Courses: ENGL 1302, HIST 2301); Empirical and Quantitative Skills (Fall 2014 Course: MATH 2312; Spring 2015 Courses: ANTH 2351, PHYS 2425).
- 4. Results from 2013-2014 Assessment:** Kathleen Fenton provided the results from the two assessment sessions in May and June. The presentation also a briefly reviewed procedure in the assessment sessions, including the completion of an Inter-Rater Reliability exercise to obtain consistent interpretation of the assessment criteria. The four assessment rating levels and their meanings were described, noting that the #3 rating level has been identified as the “standard” for Collin, the level of competence we seek for Collin students. Members were asked to share the results with faculty in their area whose courses were included in the assessment last year.
- 5. Core Continuous Improvement Plan for 2014-2015:** This is open for discussion, but the plan is to focus on Social Responsibility. The rubric definition states “to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.” There are challenges for faculty to address, and for COAT to assess, all aspects of this definition. A sub-committee will review the rubric to address these issues from the rubric side, and round-table discussions will be held during the Spring 2015 Professional Development schedule to address the challenges from the pedagogical side. It was also mentioned that elements of the Critical Thinking rubric continue to be a concern for English faculty. These issues will be considered in a review of the Critical Thinking rubric also planned for this year.

- 6. Sub-committees for Review of Critical Thinking and Social Responsibility Rubrics:** Sign-up sheets were passed around for COAT members to volunteer for one of these committees.
- 7. Revision of Assessment Session(s):** Currently, two half-day assessment days are held at the end of the spring semester. Please think about the possibility of only having one full-day assessment. Also, think about allowing former COAT members to participate. This would likely mean a larger group of assessors, distributing the work load a little more and making the single-day assessment more feasible, and allow those former members to use the session as part of their college service for the summer. Additional discussion will take place next month.
- 8. NTCC Outcomes and Assessment Conference:** This is held annually at the SCC. Please review the information provided and if you would like to attend work with your dean to secure the funds and complete the required paperwork.
- 9. COAT fall 2014 meetings:** Meetings have previously alternated between Monday and Tuesday, and been held during the third or fourth week of the month, at 4:00pm. Only one current member had a possible conflict with continuing this schedule and will work with his dean to see how to handle this. Once the dates are determined and the room reserved, an e-mail reminder will be sent.