

Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2004

The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. in the Yankee Meadows Room of the Hunter Conference Center. Present: Renee Ballinger, Said Bahi, Steve Barney, Patrick Clarke, Carl Ellis, Susan Gardner, John Groesbeck, Deb Hill, Prent Klag, Harold Ornes, Mike Richards, Julie Simon, Wayne Williams and Bonny Rayburn.

Absent: Pete Heilgeist and Brian Hoover.

Mike Richards welcomed committee members and new members introduced themselves.

I. Binder Orientation: Resource binders were distributed to committee members. Mike walked everyone through the binders so they would become familiar with the contents.

II. Review of Revised Strategic Plan

A. Proposed institutional objectives for student learning: Mike stated that for accreditation purposes, the University needs to have measurable performance indicators that tie directly to its mission statement. To that end, the following were developed and approved by the President's Staff:

1. basic knowledge within and across disciplines
2. personal connections and satisfaction with faculty and staff
3. life-long learning abilities
4. integrating theory and practice in a regional and global context
5. respect for the views of others
6. service and social responsibility

Committee members had a lengthy discussion and suggested key indicators that fall under each objective. Committee members voiced their concern that a very important stakeholder had been overlooked at this point and that is the tax payers or the community. A subcommittee will draft a matrix which includes the performance indicators and terms this committee has come up with during this meeting. The subcommittee, made up of Dale Orton, Patrick Clarke, Carl Ellis and Mike Richards will then meet on Tuesday, August 31st to fine tune his draft and copies will be distributed.

III. Institutional Effectiveness Definition: The primary purpose of Southern Utah University's Plan for measuring Institutional Effectiveness and Assessing Student Learning is improvement of quality of University function and fulfillment of its mission.

IV. Discussion of Accreditation Recommendation: During the on site accreditation visit from Northwest last October, the following recommendation was made:

It is recommended that, despite impressive progress toward establishing a process and a culture supportive of assessment of student learning, the institution fully implement the assessment plan to demonstrate the use of assessment findings in the policy and decision making of the institution.

A progress report is due to Northwest on April 15, 2005. Mike stated that, as of this time,

he was only been able to find three examples of how assessment findings have impacted policy and decision making at SUU. This will not be enough to satisfy Northwest. Mike asked committee members to please think about it and make him aware, via e-mail, of any other examples departments might be doing that can be added to the list of examples. Examples may be included in the departmental assessment reports that are submitted annually.

- V. Meeting Frequency: Committee members agreed to convene again in mid September. Please send your schedules to Bonny at rayburn@suu.edu .
- VI. Working lunch with General Education Committee:
- VII. Overview: Mike Richards gave the members of the General Education Committee an overview of what the Institutional Effectiveness Committee had accomplished over the last three hours. He explained to them that a very important dimension of this institutional assessment process is General Education and that both committees should be aware of what the other is doing so they can help each other. The institution has to be able to provide evidence to stakeholders General Education is meaningful.

Shauna Mendini, co-chair of the General Education Committee gave a general summary of what had been accomplished by the group last year. They are in the process of trying to get a G.E. model out to the campus community for review and input. There will be at least another year of dialogue before implementing a revised general education program.
- VIII. Meeting Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.