**WINTER 2013 UPDATE QUESTIONS**

**ACADEMY FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING**

1. Identify and explain any specific changes to your project scope or design since August 2012.

The following describes activities or projects we had in the planning phase prior to August but have been implemented since August.

Activity: Survey for Teaching and Learning Comparison Report – The purpose of the survey was

to determine faculty’s perception of assessment and current processes.

* The IR department prepared a report comparing the pre (March 2011) and post (February 2012) results.
* The results were to be presented to faculty at the fall Faculty Development Days.
* There was very little if any change in faculty perception. It was decided to wait and redo in February 2014 after we have had time to implement some of the proposed projects and activities for the academy.

Activity: Increase Professional Development opportunities for faculty – LENS Cube Project

* Description – Planned and scheduled session for faculty on six different topics: Changing as We Go, Collaboration and Brainstorming, Asking the Right Questions, Understanding Data, Types of Assessment Tools, and Myths about Assessment at OTC.
* Attendance to a session from a category earns the faculty a side to a cube. The sides of the cub are titled: Change, Collaborate, Ask, Understand, Tools, and Myths.
* As faculty members attend a session, they obtain a side to a cube for each category they attend. Once their cube is completed, their name goes into a drawing for a paid registration and travel expenses for a conference.
* Several faculty members are close to completing their cube.

Activity: Develop processes that provide faculty with recognition of assessment achievements and innovation – LENS Mini-Grant Project

* Purpose is to provide divisions, departments, programs, and areas of the College a source of funds to support evidence-base initiatives to assess OTC’s Institutional Learning Outcomes.
* We had our first applications submitted in September of 2012. There were a total of 13 application submitted with $11,000 requested. We only budgeted $5,000 for this project. In the end, 6 were selected as winners. The winners were announced by the College Provost at our Fall College Development Day. The six groups are in the process of implementing there plans and will submit their results in the spring.
* During our Academy update with our Board of Trustees in November, our Provost and Board of Trustees were interested in expanding this project in the future.

Activity: Assessment section in our monthly OTC Newsletter titled Student Learning Committee Corner.

* This is designed to highlight and focus on a different assessment topic each month.
* This was first implemented in September of 2012.

1. What were your goals for the past six months? Did you achieve them? Why or why not?
2. Increase the awareness of the LENS group

* Include section for LENS in the monthly OTC Newsletter.
* Promote the awareness of projects such as the Mini-Grant Project and the LENS Cube Project
* Dean’s introduced the Lens group in their fall division meeting with faculty.
* Cannot really say it has been achieved. This is something we will be working on for the next several years.

1. Increase professional development opportunities centered on improving student learning.

* This has been achieved. The sessions associated with the LENS Cube Project served to increase professional development in this area.
* This will be evaluated at the end of this academic year to determine success and what changes, if any, need to be incorporated.

1. Complete the pre/post comparison report on the Survey of Teaching and Learning.

* This was achieved. We had a lower number of participants responding to the post survey. There was not a lot of difference in the results of the pre and post. For most questions, the results were actually lower.
* It was decided we tried to give it too soon after the pre survey. Also, the Academy Team had not started implementing the proposed changes and initiatives on campus.

1. Provide annual update report of the Academy work to the Board of Trustees and to the College through the State of the College Address by the Provost.

* Both were accomplished. The presentation to the Board of Trustees was very productive. They wanted to see this project expanded to include more funding and more awareness in all areas of the college.

1. Provide opportunities for faculty recognition

* Mini-Grant Project as described above
* LENS Cube Project as described above
* What we wanted to accomplish during these six months has been successful. This is something that we will continue to pursue.

1. Develop a more user-friendly reporting process for all assessment data and also one that better tracks action plans associated with the various assessment tools and their outcomes.

* This one has not been achieved. Our biggest obstacle for this has been enough man hours and the appropriate software.
* We have purchased “Tableau: and “Strategic Planning Online” to assist with this goal.

1. How did you incorporate the feedback that you received on your previous posting?

* We followed our mentor’s advice concerning our “Survey of Teaching and Learning”. Instead of administering it again next year, we will be waiting two years. It will be administered in January of 2014.
* Mentor suggested instead of developing a “stand alone” assessment newsletter, we should incorporate a section into a current publication. We now have a section in the monthly OTC Newsletter.
* Mentor Suggestion: Suggested as we determine how to us data to make action plans, we also consider how we will track the implementation of the plans. This one we are working on. We have recently purchased software that will help make this process more manageable. The actual process has not been designed yet.

1. What are your plans and goals for the next six months? What challenges do you anticipate?

Activity: Updating the Assessment Webpage

* Build the Faculty Resource portion of our assessment webpage that includes Research Based Practice information on assessment to this area
* Add an area on the assessment webpage for professional development
* Post the last four years of Assessment of Student Learning Reports (these are ready, just need to be uploaded).
* Challenges: Do not anticipate challenges with this one.

Activity: Develop Institutional Learning Outcomes Rubrics

* Work with the Student Learning Committee on the development/completion of a rubric for our communication Institutional Learning Outcome by the end of the spring 2013 semester.
  + A subcommittee has been selected and tasked with developing a rubric that can be used across campus to promote consistency in what to expect the student to achieve.
  + This will help students better understand expectations
* Plan to pilot the use of the rubric in the fall 2013 semester.
* Challenges: Determining how to design the rubric and how to design the pilot.

Activity: Best Practices in Teaching

* Product a video with faculty demonstrating Best Practices in Teaching in the classroom
* Post Video on Assessment Web Page
* Challenges: Determining what practices to use and what faculty to video.

Activity: Mini-Grant Project Wrap-up

* Do a follow-up interview and video of the winners of the Mini-Grants to discuss how the results of their proposal served to improve learning. These will be posted on the webpage.
* Challenges: Faculty felt we needed to improve communication on how the money is dispensed, what the expected timeframe is, and what is considered innovative. Design a way to better keep the winners on track.

Activity: Develop Assessment Fast Facts

* Determine what items need to be included in this document and when we want to launch it.
* Challenges: Determine the design and what to include.

Activity: Redesign of the Assessment Report

* Make it more user-friendly.
* We have started a dashboard process. In doing so we discovered we need the proper software to make it happen. We have purchased Tableau to build the dashboard.
* Challenges: For now the challenge is learning more about the tool and how to use it for our purposes.

Activity: Develop a reporting process for tracking action plans and reported results of actions

* We have purchased “Strategic Planning Online” software. and we are starting with Annual Program Reports and Budgeting. The module for assessment will come next
* For now we will continue to use our current reporting process and try to do a better job of tracking until we can roll out the other.
* Challenges: For now the challenge is learning more about the tool and how to use it for our purposes.