

Senate Assessment Committee
Meeting Minutes, October 16, 2024
Lehman College

Members Present: Julissa Adames-Torres, Karin Beck, Martin Downing, Henry Lee, Yaswantie Persaud, Devrim Yavuz

Guests: Donald Sutherland

1. The meeting agenda and prior minutes (from September 17, 2024) were amended and approved.
2. New SGA member Henry Lee was introduced to the rest of the committee.
3. Devrim Yavuz was nominated and elected to serve as Chair of the committee during the 2024-2025 Academic Year (with 6 “yes” votes to no abstentions or opposition).
4. Donald Sutherland from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness presented the results of the survey of faculty conducted in the Spring of 2024 on attitudes toward assessment, along some of his recommendations (see appendix I of the report for the presentation). His presentation highlighted that there was a split, positive and negative attitude about the place of assessment in teaching and learning. There was some familiarity with some aspects of assessment efforts at Lehman College (such as the six-step assessment process), but some resources such as workshops and the website for institutional effectiveness were underutilized or unknown. Moreover, close to half of the faculty respondents felt that assessment results did not impact their teaching.
5. Before moving to a discussion of Donald Sutherland’s presentation and recommendations, the committee decided to vote on the “Senate Resolution on the Length of The Assessment Cycle for Programs and Academic and Educational Support Services” so that it could be brought to a vote during the next Senate meeting on November 13, 2024. Discussions about drafting the resolution had started in the Spring of 2024. The resolution recommends that the assessment cycle be defined as assessing learning goals/performance goals at least twice within an eight-year period. The committee felt the resolution gave the campus community a chance to do assessment in a thoughtful manner, taking into account varying needs and length of time required for interventions (such as curricular changes) to take effect. By passing a senate resolution the committee felt that it would balance the need to report with having more grassroots assessment and prevent the clock from being imposed top-down by the administration. Furthermore, it was also stressed that the resolution would mesh well with survey results discussed above which stressed that assessment could be improved. The resolution was adopted with 6 “yes” votes with no opposition or abstention.

6. The committee continued discussions of the survey on assessment and the recommendations that it engendered, focusing primarily on the dichotomy between responses who saw assessment as useful and those who did not feel that it contributed to their teaching. Several items for future discussion came up:
 - a. Catering and advertising workshops organized by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness more widely to include faculty members other than the assessment coordinators.
 - b. Promoting the deployment of assessment as a broader collaborative effort through such measures as giving *Watermark* access to more stakeholders, such as those responsible for curriculum or by organizing a workshop around assessment efforts that are done more collaboratively.
 - c. Showcasing assessment efforts more broadly by collaborating with the Center for Teaching and Learning could also be explored.

The meeting was adjourned and the committee decided to discuss these further in the future.

APPENDIX II

SENATE RESOLUTION ON THE LENGTH OF THE ASSESSMENT CYCLE FOR PROGRAMS AND ACADEMIC AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Whereas, various accreditation agencies and higher education associations recommend evaluating the effectiveness of learning goals and/or performance goals regularly;

Whereas, the Lehman College community has a long-standing commitment to academic freedom and balancing the need to document effectiveness with the mission of various disciplines and units;

Whereas, the Lehman College Senate's Assessment Committee is charged with recommending "policies regarding the institutional effectiveness of academic and administrative affairs of the College";

Be it resolved that the Assessment Committee and Lehman College Senate recommends that administrative units, academic programs, and academic and educational support services assess each of their learning goals and/or performance goals at least twice within an eight-year period.