

General Education Assessment Program

UTC Faculty Senate
September 18, 08

Background

- Main push for developing an assessment program comes from SACS
- UTC must show that it is assessing what is going in General Education: what are the expectations/objectives and how do they correspond to outcomes (actual student learning)

Background

- SACS requirement, however, also point to a more significant curricular problem:
 - General Education = 1/3 of student credit hours
 - UTC has no mechanism for a formal program review of General Education
- Thus, need to develop response to assessment charge that does more than just “satisfy” SACS needs; also internal curriculum development and institutional planning

Assessing General Education

- For a number of years, General Education committee struggled with question of how to proceed
- These discussions culminated in the series of recommendations Committee made to the Provost's Office, also presented in its annual report to the Senate

Planning a program

- After a series of meetings in Spring 2008, Provost's office agreed to begin implementing the committee's recommendations, trial basis
- Actual execution of program must be done by the administration, not a faculty committee

Assessment program

- Three major elements:
 - Recertification process - evaluate course intentions
 - Use testing/survey data as available:
 - CAAP, MAPP, NSSE
 - Course-based assessment
 - “portfolio” model

Course-based assessment

- Portfolio model

- Sample of courses/sections identified in each of the category areas (this year, 3 areas in Fall, 3 areas in Spring)
- Instructors invited to submit artifacts of student work for scoring
- Scoring conducted by 3-member faculty teams using rubrics based on competency statements
- For 2008-09, plan to identify 3-4 courses per area

Assessment program

- Because of overlap with SACCS concerns, Karen Adsit agreed to lead administrative dimension of the trial program
- Idea: gain practical experience -- especially with course based assessment -- use that to fine tune program, also gather additional faculty input.