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 SACS 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.