

Dean's Council

March 1, 2011

Attendees: B. Barnett, E. Daffron, S. Rosenberg, L. Siecke, L. Chakrin, H. Nejad, S. Perry and B. Langer.

E. Daffron called the meeting to order.

Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA)

B. Barnett would like to administer the CLA test again this upcoming year for 2011-2012. CWAC, or the College Wide Assessment Committee, endorses this plan. It will involve some implementation logistics.

The test looks at problem solving skills, critical thinking, written communications and all general education or institutional skills that Ramapo students should have. It is noted:

- The test is not multiple choice.
- It tries to simulate a real world experience, is done in front of a computer, and takes about an hour and a half.
- CLA tries to show to what degree students have made progress from freshman year to senior year. This is based on the student's entering SAT score and what you would have expected their learning gains to have been by the end, and whether the institution is delivering on that promise.

The 2008 -09 results were basically at the performance level. There were some administration problems last time. One hundred and five (105) freshman participated, but only 34 seniors did; which was not a large enough number for valid results. Middle States liked that Ramapo used the CLA test but did not like that there was not a valid sample or results for the seniors.

The CLA can be repeated every two or three years, though the administration of the test is tricky. It is best to embed the test within a course and will probably take students one and a half hours to complete.

Incentives for students to take the course were discussed, as well as questions about when students would be taking the course and where. The test would be administered to freshman in fall 2011 and seniors in spring 2012. B. Langer pointed out that students must be given clear notice about this test in the syllabus for the class. He also did not feel that this should be a part of the student's grade for academic performance, and that a distinction should be made if it is to be considered as part of the administrative requirement of the course.

B. Barnett asked E. Daffron about his plans for making faculty aware of this testing in the fall. He offered that CWAC has been cooperative and he would like them to present this idea to their units in unit council. This was well received by the deans.

Fall timing for the test will be August to October 15, - for spring, Feb to April 15. The test can be done on-site individually or as a class, or on Saturday, Sunday, or evenings. E. Daffron said he was fine with using various methods to encourage students to take the test. as long as a representative sample was achieved.

B. Barnett suggested sending this report on the CLA to all faculty as an attachment to indicate we are moving forward. They can expect to hear from their dean and their CWAC representative at a future unit council meeting.

S. Perry suggested that the deans speak to their own CWAC representatives first.

S. Rosenberg – will suggest that this be discussed within each unit’s assessment committee and should come with a unit assessment committee proposal. He felt it would be much better received and could preclude going over the discussion of standardized testing.

E. Daffron will email CWAC members about this document and the ways to present this to unit council members. S. Perry suggested that deans talk to CWAC representatives before this document is sent to them.