WHAT ABOUT ASSESSMENTS?

In late October, I sat down with Dr. Dan Abrahamowicz and Dr. Gary Dickstein to discuss assessments in Student Affairs and the latest efforts to create division and campus-wide standards.

We are focusing on assessments in Student Affairs for two main reasons:

1) to provide data for the University Accreditation process, and
2) to respond to the growing need for specific evidence of S.A. worth and value on campus.

Assessment data is crucial in the acquisition of funding for our programs and initiatives. Departments within Student Affairs have always done assessments, some more formally/rigorously than others. We want to standardize assessments in a systematic way throughout the division. The division also wants to create a culture of evidence, celebrate our accomplishments, and objectively verify our accomplishments as supporting the mission and goals of the division and university. Assessments can show us whether our efforts are achieving our intended goals; if not, we can take the opportunity to adjust our processes so that we efficiently utilize our limited resources. Under the Mission Driven Allocation (MDA) budget model, assessment data could be critical to securing a department’s operating budget.

Assessments will be tailored to each department. We want to guarantee the high quality of our assessments across the division, but each department will not necessarily form exactly the same type of assessment. Both quantitative and qualitative assessments will have their place.

Assessments will be implemented across the division under the guidance of an advisory committee chaired by Dr. Gary Dickstein. He will work closely with the recently hired assessment director, AVP Renee Aitken, who is charged with organizing and standardizing assessment efforts across the entire campus. Dr. Dickstein said he plans to meet with each of the directors in Student Affairs to discuss what each department is currently doing and how to best assess those efforts. In collaboration with the campus assessment director, the advisory committee will develop a rubric of assessment standards to create consistent methodology across the division and university. This rubric will hopefully be completed by the end of this academic year. The entire assessment initiative will likely take 2 years to fully implement.

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“Every student needs someone who says, simply, ‘You mean something. You count.’” - Tony Kushner

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Nov. 13** – Grant Proposal Development and Writing: Understanding the Components of an Effective Proposal. 10:00am-11:30pm in the Student Union, Endeavor 156A
  Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 12 to Jan Power at ext. 2425 or to rsp@wright.edu.
- **Nov. 14** – WSU Men’s Basketball Home Opener vs. Belmont 7:00 p.m.
- **Nov. 18** – New this year, the Friends of the Libraries are excited to offer brown bag lunch sessions for our Unwin(e)d Book Club titles. Bring your lunch and join us in Room 342 of Dunbar Library from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm as we discuss *The Weirdness* by Jeremy Bushnell.
- **Nov. 19** – Brown Bag Seminar - A World Unbound: The Changing Nature of Higher Education and Internationalization. Speaker: Jeffery Selingo. 2-3pm, Et63 Student Union. Open to all faculty, staff, and students.
- **Nov. 20** – WSU Women’s Basketball Home Opener vs. Murray State 7:00 p.m.
- **Nov. 27**—Raidersgiving: for attendee, volunteer, and donation info contact Sommer Todd or Jamie Norris
- **Dec. 6** – Trans-Siberian Orchestra at the Nutter Center, 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- **Dec. 13** – Wright State University Commencement 10:00 a.m.

BRAGGING RIGHTS!
CONGRATULATIONS:

- Valita Wilhoite honored with President’s award for Excellence in Service, 2014
- Erendira Lopez-Garcia & Heather Rando honored with Student Affairs Diversity Award, 2014
- Ohio STEM Ability Alliance honored with Goldenberg Quest for Community Award, 2014
- Jack Pence (Student Activities) and his wife are expecting a baby in November 2014
- Jane Schelb, Associate Director of Event Services, is officially retired as of October

YEARS OF SERVICE:

- Carol Rader (Residence Life), 25 years!
- Katherine Myers (ODS), 20 years!
- Donna Harris (ODS), 15 years!
- Sheri Penwell (ODS), 10 years!
- Rick Danals (Student Activities), 10 years!
- Lenny Gonzalez (Student Activities) 20 years!

DIVISION ANNOUNCEMENTS

⇒ The Office of Disability Services announces new staff member: Sarah Mault, Disability Resource Specialist, joined ODS in July 2014.
⇒ The Office of Disability Services now takes applications for services online (see ODS website for details).
⇒ The Nutter Center’s Joe Dick, Operations Supervisor, was promoted to Event Services Manager on October 13, 2014! Joe is a graduate of Wright State University and has been an employee of the Nutter Center since 2000.
⇒ The new Director of Community Standards and Student Conduct, Chris Taylor, joined the department over the summer.
⇒ Community Standards and Student Conduct also welcomed a new Assistant Director, Christopher Hogan, over the summer.
⇒ Residence Life and Housing New staff members are Wisnu “Wiz” Sugiarto, Mariann Weiss, and Brian Jackson.
⇒ Residence Life and Housing is pleased to announce the launching of a new room selection site in January 2015! Students will now be able to use an interactive map to select their room assignment and view roommate information.
⇒ Wow—Campus housing occupancy is up 14% from last year!
⇒ Students and staff can now find opportunities to engage in service on OrgSync. Want to learn more? Talk to Debbie Lamp x5566
WHAT ABOUT ASSESSMENTS? CONTINUED FROM PAGE1

The reporting timeline for collected data will be annual, most likely following the fiscal year. This is a development year, so it is anticipated that next year we will be ready to implement the new reporting schedule. Dr. Abrahamowicz said, “In the future, it could be interesting to host an Assessment Day where the division could come together and report/review the results gathered from department assessments throughout that year.” Dr. Dickstein would like to create a manageable timeline of activity so that, at the end of the year, a unit need only gather their reporting data.

Dr. Dickstein’s committee will arrange for necessary training, workshops, etc. to educate staff on the (yet to be developed) standards for future assessments and reporting. The committee will not only develop these standards, but will continuously serve as a guiding body which can provide support to the Student Affairs departments on any issues relating to assessments. If additional funding/staff are needed in order for a department to create and administer high quality assessment tools, requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis with Dr. Abrahamowicz.

The Student Affairs Staff Development Committee would like to thank Drs. Abrahamowicz and Dickstein for their time and commitment to this issue. If you have a professional or personal interest in assessments and would like information about becoming an assessment committee member, please contact Dr. Gary Dickstein.

- Written by Carly Porter
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

We hope you enjoyed reading the inaugural issue of the Student Affairs Newsletter! This is a collaborative effort by the Student Affairs Staff Development Committee and we need YOUR help! Please consider submitting ideas or information for any of the following topics for Issue 2 of the Newsletter (tentative publication date: February 2015):

**Employee Spotlight** – Brief overview of personal/professional history with WSU, job details, neat personal facts, etc.

“Caught doing something good” – Acknowledge a peer’s work within the dept. or with the campus community in general. Doesn’t have to be something big, could be daily small things such as excellent customer service or always willing to work late.

**Bragging Rights** – Acknowledging SA staff’s personal announcements: birthdays, WSU anniversary, baby announcements, engagement/marriage, degree completion, etc.

We will also be soliciting upcoming events and department announcements via email closer to the publish date.

This Newsletter will only be as successful as YOU make it! Send us your thoughts, ideas, and submissions to any of the member emails below!

COMMITTEE NOTES

Progressive Lunch—tentatively scheduled for early January 2015. We will email with firm details.

Membership—We welcome Gary Dickstein to the committee as of November 2014. Please consider joining us—all are welcome!

Feedback—Let us know your thoughts and suggestions on the newsletter (see emails in left panel).