Introductions

- Wesley LeJeune, Coordinator of Assessment and Curriculum Development
- Jessica Hutchings, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs

Participant Learning Outcomes

The participant will:
1. examine assessment processes in order to correct inefficiencies;
2. generate strategies to improve communication across campus; and
3. develop methods to increase transparency in assessment efforts across the institution.
About McNeese State University

- Founded in 1939
- Located in Lake Charles, LA
- Public, four-year institution
- Approximately 7,650 students
- Six academic colleges and School of Graduate Studies
- 52 degree programs (associate, baccalaureate, and master’s)

Timeline

- April 2015: IR department changes
- July 2015: General Education Assessment Council (GEAC) reconvened
- January 2016: More IR department changes
- Preparation for SACSOC reaffirmation begins: May 2015
- General Education Assessment Plan created: August 2015
Timeline

- SACSCOC Compliance Certification submitted: September 2016
- SACSCOC on-site visit and QEP presentation: March 2017
- Follow-up report submitted: September 2017
- Placed on monitoring for IE standards: December 2017
- Monitoring report submitted: September 2018

The Problems

The many, many problems...

General Education

- No oversight
- Assessment sparse or non-existent
- No institutional assessment plan
- Poor student learning outcomes
- Courses thrown under discipline area that seemed “appropriate”
- Content not aligned to outcomes
Fostering an Assessment Culture on Campus

Program and Unit Assessment
- Policies not enforced
  - Some turned in reports; others conveniently "forgot"
- Assessment widely misunderstood and perceived negatively
- Lack of professional development
- Archaic processes
- No transparency

Group Discussion
Can you relate?

Managing General Education
- What do we have?
  - Policies
  - Procedures
  - Committees
- How do we move forward?
  - Developed plan
  - Initiated direct assessment sessions
  - Developed annual report
Program and Unit Assessment Overhaul

- What do we have?
  - Policies
  - Procedures
- How do we move forward?
  - Located problem areas
  - Began utilizing existing software
  - Refined outcomes and assessment measures
  - Compiled mature data
  - Integrated assessment into curriculum and course development

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

- Indirectly assisted with assessment issues
- Artifact submission
- More faculty involvement
  - Non-general education instructors
  - Non-department heads

Communication and Transparency

- Integrate assessment into policies, job descriptions, and evaluations
- Put all assessment reports online
- Establish and regularly communicate assessment timelines
- Create review and approval processes
- Provide feedback and show appreciation
Check Yourself

Handout #1

What's Next for McNeese?

- Implementing peer review
- Aligning outcomes with new strategic plan
- Consolidating assessments
- General education redesign
- Faculty development
- More faculty development
- Continue integrating assessment into existing policies and processes

Group Discussion

What's Next for Your Institution?
Closing Remarks

• Not a one-person job
• Build relationships, especially with difficult colleagues
• Accountability is key, so get administrators involved
• Baby steps
  • Implementing change takes time
  • Talk about assessment non-stop
  • Others will eventually speak the language with you

Questions?

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