

**Assessment Committee
Action Item Work Group Report
June 13, 2002**

Action Item #3: Review current data collection to determine its use in assessment

Team Leader: Doug Easterling

Team Members: Joan Patten, David Bodary, Jeff Boudouris/Theresa Brin, Teresa Hieronymus, Steve Jonas, Anna Mays, Sherry McAndrew, Sue Merrell, Dave Siefert, Kathy Wiesenauer, Ned Young

Recommendations and Rationales (one of the recommendations should address whether the team should continue and why/why not): Note these are tentative as the group's last meeting isn't until 27 June. We intend to provide the Assessment Committee with a reconnaissance report as to what kinds of challenges SCC faces in improving its assessment efforts for the next NCA self-study, which must be completed by 30 June 2006, along with recommendations as to how those challenges might be addressed.

1. Decision by administration as to the approach SCC will use for its next NCA self-study. This approach will drive how the assessment plan should be revised, which, in turn, should drive what kinds of data need to be collected for assessment.
2. The work of this group is done. The new work that we recommend be done should be assigned to a high-level group reporting directly to the Provost's Work Group and President's Council that should be established at the outset of FY02-03 with the charge of assessing SCC's readiness for the next NCA self-study in light of the new accreditation criteria now pending adoption and proposing a plan for how the College will handle its next self-study.
3. Time is of the essence. It appears very likely that the forthcoming revised NCA accreditation criteria will focus on process improvement. Consequently, any self-study approach needs to focus on documenting not only that we have assessment data, BUT how that data is used to improve institutional processes that influence student learning. In light of the College's current weaknesses with respect to demonstrating how process improvement occurs, it is not unreasonable to assume that it may well require the 4 years between now and the next NCA accreditation visit in 2006-07 to get our act together!
4. The Baldrige Quality Award criteria provide useful though exacting standards for evaluating the effectiveness of current institutional practices for process improvement. Sinclair should NOT apply for the award, but use the criteria to guide how it evaluates its current process improvement efforts. Such an evaluation needs to be at the heart of any plan for the next NCA self-study.
5. Substantive revision of current practices and procedures for the collection and use of assessment data should be deferred until a strategy for the next NCA self-study has been determined.

Past activities associated with completion of action item:

We used Baldrige criteria 6 (Process Management) and 7 (Organizational Performance results) as the basis for evaluating existing assessment data and determining how those data are currently deployed for process improvement.

If team recommended continuing work, identify proposed future activities and areas of focus:

See #2 in the first item above.

Resources needed to complete work:

See #2 in the first item above. The group recommended to continue our work needs to have commitment from the College's leadership to proceed with developing a self-study plan that will be the major focus of SCC's operations over the next 4 years.