

## PARC Meeting Notes

Friday, April 23, 2010

Attending: Marie Francois, Stephen Clarke, Tiina Itkonen, Stephen Lefevre, Ed Nuhfer, Luda Popenhagen, Nelle Moffett, Bill Cordeiro (for Mike Riley).

PARC Reports on Business, Biology, Computer Science, and ESRM. Steve L. reviewed activities since the last meeting, saying that the four PARC reports had been edited into a common format, sent to members for comments, and that only the Biology report received comments.

Nelle asked whether members felt there had been value added by PARC input into the process, with several saying they believed CI faculty did add valuable recommendations and make corrections in recommendations for external reviewers. Ed suggested that Faculty Development be involved at the front end of the program review process, and when external reviewers are visiting, to be sure that reports are accurate with respect to faculty development and assessment support.

The members reviewed and approved Business, Computer Science (after including a suggestion from Nelle regarding the use of 'commendation' rather than 'recommendation' on those occasions when the report is positive in its remarks), and ESRM. These reports will be forwarded to the respective chairs, the dean, and the provost. The members agreed to table forwarding Biology until changes are made, after which approval will be done electronically.

Terminology of Assessment. Ed led the discussion of suggested changes in definitions for key assessment terms, those changes coming from a subcommittee of Alex, Dennis, Steve, and Ed. With editorial changes, the draft was approved and will be posted on the assessment website.

Program Review of Course Learning Outcomes. Marie, Steve C., Ed and others discussed the problem of workload at the program level in reviewing course learning outcomes. Many adjunct faculty are responsible for courses, and the question came up whether they were responsible for participating in the review. Some tenure track faculty appear philosophically opposed to teaching to outcomes. The process of updating courses and getting Curriculum Committee approval may be burdensome. Bill explained how Business involves all faculty in course assessment. It was suggested that a group discuss how to expedite these course outcome reviews.

Referring to next year's program reviews, Nelle suggested that programs up for review be linked to Faculty Development at the front end of the process in order to understand clearly what assessment information is appropriate and expected in the reviews.

Steve L. thanked PARC for its work this year.