

Notes from PARC Meeting

November 18, 2008

1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Guest: Dawn Neuman

1. **CLA.** Ed Nuhfer outlined the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) exam that will be given across the CSUs as a measure of students' critical thinking skills. Harley, Betsy, Alex and several other members had questions and comments about the exam, how it's administered to freshman and seniors, and how much faith we should put in test results.

Dawn Neuman noted that she was able to get a postponement for CSUCI in the administration portion of the exam, originally schedule for 2008, and said she wants to have conversations about how best to involve students and faculty in its delivery. Trudy suggested that CLA be administered to the UNIV 110 Critical Thinking class and in capstones for seniors. Ed handed out materials on several indexes including the Perry scale, which measures lower and higher levels of critical thinking and problem solving skills.

2. **Assessment Strategic Plan.** Ed explained that he intends to work with faculty on development of a strategic plan for assessment within Academic Affairs and the programs.

3. **Program Review.** Steve Lefevre reported on the external review visits in October and November. Two external reviewers participated in site visits for each of the disciplines of English, Art, Math, and Liberal Studies. Reviewers were very positive about the quality of our educational programs. The review teams will each be submitted a written review of the program by early December. To assist in the self-study process, Ed's office will be funding a morning retreat for the faculty in the four programs that have completed their self studies this past year, together with faculty from the four disciplines now drafting self-studies: Business, Computer Science, ESRM, and Biology. This retreat will be scheduled in December.

4. **Role of PARC in Program Review.** Steve outlined the role of PARC in the next stage of program review for the initial disciplines. PARC is charged with reviewing the materials assembled so far in the review process, and writing its own report. After considering several alternatives, Greg, Alex, and others suggested that PARC be broken down into four subgroups, each of which will review one discipline, and report back to the larger PARC committee. That report will be forwarded to the program chair, dean, and provost.

5. **Data Packs from Institutional Research.** Steve reported that Nelle Moffett is working on expanding the information available in the Data Packs. He reported that she is collecting information on current students, graduates, faculty, program budgets, and several performance and efficiency indicators.