
ASSESSMENT (ASM)

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE CHAIR: MARTIN HUGHES

A. Major issues addressed by the committee during the 2010–2011 year

At the request of the Educational Policy Committee (EPC), the Assessment Committee (ASM) reviewed an ongoing series of proposals for new or revised courses and programs submitted to EPC during the academic year. ASM was charged with ensuring that the proposals were based at least in part on the assessment of existing courses or programs, and that they made provisions for ongoing assessment so as to acquire feedback on the effectiveness of proposed changes. After its review of a proposal, ASM reported its recommendations back to EPC.

Since so many of its recommendations were similar from one proposal to the next, ASM sought to address the situation more systematically by proposing revisions to the proposal templates themselves. These proposals were submitted in the spring semester and informed the revision of the templates by EPC.

B. Actions the committee brought before Faculty Senate (if any)

None

C. Other actions, not involving Faculty Senate, that the committee initiated or implemented

In addition to its ongoing work reviewing proposals, several committee members participated in the Higher Learning Commission's "Assessment Academy" workshop, held in Lisle, Illinois, on March 2-4, 2011. This participation, led by committee member and Dean for Institutional Effectiveness Michael Stob, is not work sponsored by ASM *per se*, but it has significant ramifications on ASM's mandate and activities, and takes advantage of the unique knowledge, skills, and experiences of its members.

D. Issues that will continue to be before the committee next year

The "Assessment Academy" pilot project is a three-year assessment of Calvin's first-year experience, including but not limited to the "core gateway" of Prelude and Developing a Christian Mind. The ongoing project is being sponsored by a separate steering committee, but it is expected that ASM will be involved in an advisory capacity.

Meanwhile, ASM will continue to serve at the request of EPC in reviewing proposals in the upcoming academic year. However, it is hoped that revisions to proposal templates will streamline the review process considerably, freeing up the committee to engage departments more directly with assessment-related issues after proposals are approved and implemented.