

MEMORANDUM

To: University Assessment Committee
From: Office of Student Affairs
Re: Report on addressing gaps in student learning
Date: 12/22/07

Divisional Strategies:

Based on recommendations made by the University Assessment Committee, the Division of Student Affairs selected two 'learning-objectives' and committed to evaluating and advancing them:

- 1) A personal code of values and ethics.
- 2) Appreciation for different points of view.

In an effort to evaluate our progress, the division worked with Christy Cole of Institutional Research to develop an assessment form to identify outcomes of various programs, services, etc. All departments within the division of Student Affairs will use this one-minute assessment form as a consistent way to measure impact of various programs and their impact on student development/outcomes.

Departmental Strategies:

Career Services

Although staff on the Office of Career Services strongly support the two learning objectives selected by the division, the specific focus and responsibilities of this department are not linked to directly moving the objectives forward. Additionally, a majority of the services provided by this staff is predicated on a student's already existing personal values and preferences. Programming to successfully influence undergraduate students' personal values/ethics and appreciation for difference is difficult, given the office's mission/goals. Use of the division's One Minute Assessment Tool is being used with students for all group programs and events. Results, however, are not as easy to link as they are by other departments' initiatives.

Chapel

Assess development of the appreciation of religious difference. The chapel will work in developing questions and strategies to identify ways to assess and improve this development and will add no more than two questions to our annual senior survey.

Counseling Center

The Counseling Center staff addresses these issues with students on a daily basis. Specifically, the majority of services provided by the Counseling Center staff are one-on-one individual counseling sessions with students experiencing emotional or behavioral difficulties. These meetings as well as attendance

Dean of Students

Administer our newly developed student code of conduct and disciplinary procedures to assist with values and ethical development.

Greek Life, Student Activities and Leadership

The Office of Greek Life, Student Activities and Leadership attempts to achieve the two 'objectives' through various measures including: the application of pertinent programs, one-on-one student meetings and the holding of disciplinary procedures.

Health Center

Although the two learning objectives selected by the student affairs division do not relate to the programs and services provided through ONU's Student Health Center, it should be noted that operation was assessed, during fall quarter 2007, by a group of students enrolled in the CBA's Marketing Research class. Key aspects looked at were student satisfaction with current operations and projected support/non-support for some proposed operational changes. A hardcopy report was provided to the VPSA who then provided one to the Director of Institutional Research. Work continues to resolve as many of the concerns as possible, both in the short and longer terms.

Multicultural Development

Consult with staff, faculty, and student leaders for feedback and input on the promotion of diversity throughout campus. Multicultural Development will assist with the organization of a Campus wide Diversity Committee. Finally, the department will promote the integration of multicultural goals throughout the University community.

Residence Life

The Office of Residence Life developed the division's one-minute assessment form with the assistance of the Office of Institutional Research. The office will administer our annual survey, which for the second year includes a section to evaluate the extent to which campus living contributes to a student's personal growth and development. Areas that are analyzed include: developing values and ethics; understanding people with different beliefs, opinions or values; understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds. The department will continue to promote these two objectives through various services and through the ACHIEVEMENT programming model.

Conclusion

The division and most departments will give particular focus to the development of values/ethical development and appreciation for different points of view in student learning. Neither the Office of Career Services nor the Student Health Center have educational ways to enhance the two selected focuses. As each of the department's names identify, what is offered is not always applicable to being engaged in this division-wide undertaking.

As a division we identified these two objectives so that as many departments as possible will further develop specific programs, services, and initiatives that ensure these objectives are a priority for ONU students. The division will continue to administer, evaluate, assess and use feedback loops with our newly developed assessment tool, the Student Affairs one-minute assessment form. This assessment strategy will enable our division to better assess the needs of our students and develop/modify current programs/initiatives that assist our student's growth in these two specific learning objectives.