

## Assessment Matters

To begin, I'd like to extend a big "thank you" to those who have already submitted their assessment materials electronically. The switch to electronic submission seems to be going fairly smoothly. There was some confusion with the forms on the website and on the Mesabi "Q" drive since they were also available in PDF format. Forms are now available only in Word. Some of you have mentioned that the lines on the Form Bs are problematic. If that is the case, just delete them and then type in your information. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any assistance regarding the forms.

I'd like to remind the assessment contact people that both Form A and Form B (Plan for Assessment) should have been submitted by now. This deadline also applies to College Services. I'm still missing quite a few forms, so please make that a priority. Plans need to be in place in order for the assessment to be completed. Just think of how good it will feel to get your forms finished before the MEA break! Plus, the semester will only get busier as time passes. Please note that Classroom Assessment Records can be turned in at any point during the semester, so feel free to get those submitted before you are buried under midterm exams.

The Assessment Committee will be meeting this week to continue our discussion about the assessment of general education outcomes. We will also discuss the assessment of online classes. I look forward to sharing our results in the next newsletter.

I recently met with Provost Royer and Dean Helland to discuss assessment for 2007-2008. Dr. Royer would like to see the general education outcomes assessed at the institutional level. To begin that process, the Assessment Committee will select one of the outcomes, for example "communicate effectively." According to Dean Helland, that particular outcome has been identified by businesses as an area of weakness (particularly in regard to presentations) for some new employees. Once the general education outcome is selected, the committee will determine the criteria for success and the assessment instrument. For 2007-2008 only, *every* discipline or program would assess that outcome for a selected course each semester in lieu of the regular assessment process. College Services would also participate. Data would be collected throughout the year and the results shared at the fall 2008 duty day. Watch for more updates about this upcoming assessment initiative in future newsletters.

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