

“Assessment Matters”

Welcome back! It's a new academic year, which means a new year of assessment. At this stage, departments should be meeting to determine which courses to assess. Each department should assess at least two courses for the 2006-2007 year (often those with the highest enrollment). While it is beneficial to assess the same courses (or services) over a period of time in order to compare data, the Form B: Plan for Assessment should be updated (or a new course/service selected to assess) once assessment goals have been met (or hopefully exceeded). The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) will be looking for evidence of a “continuous improvement culture” at Mesabi during its next scheduled visit in 2009-2010.

Speaking of the HLC, MRCTC's 2004-2006 Assessment Progress Report is now in the hands of its Assistant Director for Accreditation Services. A section of the report dealt with Mesabi's response to the “challenges” (or areas for improvement) outlined in the HLC's Focused Visit Report (2003). Our work with assessment directly affects MRCTC's accreditation status, so hopefully the HLC will be satisfied with our progress. Copies of the Assessment Progress Report are available on both campuses and on the MRCTC website. Please take the time to read over our assessment results. Many of you are doing a terrific job and deserve a pat on the back. A big “thank you” to those who submitted their assessment forms in a timely fashion last year. Special kudos to Laurie Tekautz who has already submitted her Form B for this year!! As you may have noted on the assessment information sheet included in your Duty Day folder, I have made some changes to assessment form submission deadlines (and the means of submission). The assessment timeline included on that sheet should serve as a reference throughout the year.

Should you require further information about assessment, please do not hesitate to contact me or stop by my office (M213). I will be including assessment updates in each newsletter for your information. The next column will share the results from the first Assessment Committee meeting, including our assessment goals for 2006-2007.

Thank you again for your continued participation in this important process. Have a great year!

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