Minutes ISLO Committee October 14, 2020

Present: JJ Akin, Marcia Bunge, Evelyn Doran, Kris Hank, Elizabeth Kubek, Sharon Marquart, David Menk, Ben Menke, Sarah Ruble, Lianying Shan
Unable to attend: Kirk Carlson, Artur Pietka, Charlie Potts

Agenda: RNL Survey Discussion, updates

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm.

1) We began with a discussion of the RNL Student Survey (Sophomore-Senior) Academic Affairs data shared with the Committee (also shared with the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees).

David Menk noted that the survey methodology involves asking students to respond twice each to a set of 100 questions, indicating both the importance of an item and their satisfaction with the item as provided.   We have a three-year commitment to this instrument and will administer the survey in SP 21 to Juniors and Seniors. During this time we will not use NSSE or HERI but can compare data; we will continue to administer CIRP and BCSSE.

David Menk's overview analysis of the data:
● The survey opened to students this Spring on the same day that Gustavus shifted to remote instruction; analysis shows that responses did not change significantly at key decision points during the survey window.
● Response rate was 23% (275 total, 130 sophomore/135 senior)
● Gustavus scored very well overall (average 6 out of 7) on distinctives, including Community, General Education, Technology, and Financial Aid.
● Students of color scored their satisfaction significantly lower on many indicators; this information has been shared with Siri Erikson and Kathi Tunheim
● Somewhat lower satisfaction ranges (4 average) include living conditions, some indicators of diversity, and some non-academic areas

Sarah Ruble agreed to draft a document mapping the full range of questions to specific areas of the College.

2) Sarah Ruble updated the Committee on the upcoming submission of the HLC Interim Report.
3) David Menk confirmed that in order to continue offering hybrid and online courses, we will need to file a Substantive Change Application with HLC in November.

The meeting adjourned at 430 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Kubek

Minutes ISLO Committee November 4, 2020

Present: JJ Akin, Marcia Bunge, Elizabeth Kubek, Sharon Marquart, David Menk, Ben Menke, Lianying Shan, Artur Pietka, Charlie Potts

Unable to attend: Kirk Carlson, Evelyn Doran, Ben Menke

Agenda:
- Review RNL survey data and Sarah's suggestions for sharing
- Discussion: Coordinating with Academic Technology Committee on proposed Student Senate technology survey
- Other business

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

1) Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2020 ISLO committee meeting
   a) Passed

2) Review RNL survey data and Sarah's suggestions for sharing
   a) Committee thinks Sarah's document is great and expresses gratitude
   b) Question from Angela about if there's any qualitative data associated with RNL survey
      i) David replied there was a comment box that wasn't heavily utilized. Most comments were positive and David's student employee is looking at these responses now. Nothing that stuck out as a red flag.
   c) Marketing (JJ) and Advancement (Angela) would like a broad look at the data to better inform the many ways these data points could be shared or promoted. Angela said it could provide good opportunity for discussion at Advancement directors' meeting.
      i) David pointed out that Cabinet members have access to all the data and can share at their discretion
   d) How to best share data?
      i) Something easy to consume, not multi-tab.
      ii) Perhaps color coded
      iii) First-time completion of this survey, so cannot offer direct comparisons to last year/previous years
         (1) Question raised by Lianying about if we could map similar questions to have some broad comparisons
            (a) Possibly NSSE, according to David.
   e) Elizabeth raised the point that support of BIPOC community members and DEI initiatives continue to be major focuses for the College.
      i) David proposes checking with Siri/PCDEI about how to best and most appropriately share this data

        ii)   Sharon broadens question about sharing "good" data points that may not align with experiences of individuals who may be aggrieved by perceived "bragging"

        iii)   Angela uses Parent Council as an example, importance of both sharing and closing the loop.

   f)   What kind of things might ISLO ask to do with this data (productive, actionable)?

        i)   Sharon suggests using language about how sharing data points aligns with mission/strategic plan

        ii)   Artur suggests educating community on availability of data, then distributing on data-request basis. What is scope of committee: should we be analyzing, setting direction, creating recommendations, acting on directives from Cabinet, or something else?

               (1) Elizabeth says mandate of committee focuses largely on student learning outcomes, but all data collected is relevant to that work. Academic Affairs subcommittee of Board is also looking at this data.

        iii)   Elizabeth with work with Brenda and Valerie about ways to share data appropriately

3)   Student Senate/ATC Survey Partnership

   a)   Can ISLO serve as a resource for other groups such as this to advise on best practices, avoid survey fatigue, make sure evaluations are equitable and appropriate, etc.

   b)   Both faculty and students want to know how things are going with digital course delivery, online learning, etc. What's working, what's not working.

   c)   How does this intersect with current course evaluations? Could some of these questions be added to those?

        i)   Important to keep them separate because it's not an evaluative instrument for promotion, mentorship, etc

4)   No other business

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Submitted by JJ Akin

Present: Marcia Bunge, Becky Fremo, J.J. Akin, Angela Ericksen, Artur Pietka, Charlie Potts, Lianying Shan, Evelyn Doran, Elizabeth Kubek, David, Menk, Sarah Ruble.

I. HLC Report
    A. We do not have any follow-ups in terms of writing or a campus visit. We do need to continue to work on assessment, but we "passed."
        1. Esp. general education and Challenge Seminar.
        2. Continue to think about resources. Putting resources toward the Challenge Seminars will be one way to show we are using our resources.
        3. Closing the loop has emerged as a particular focus for HLC, something we will want to keep in mind.
    B. The report is shareable and public. President Bergman will make the initial announcement and then our committee can help think about to lift up particular pieces.
    C. It will be useful to share with the community how the various areas and levels of student learning connect to each other. This committee can help accentuate how these areas fit together as we head into the next report. We help focus on the big picture.
    D. We will also need to think about the assessment of online courses going forward.
        1. Can build on some of our assessment from this fall.
        2. Marcia supports starting this as soon as possible to inform future online teaching
        3. We might want to get some suggestions/ideas from online colleges.
        4. From the student perspective: students would be willing to give feedback. Student senate now has a technology chair/committee interested in online learning and might be working on a survey for students about general student perceptions of online learning.
            a) Evelyn will get a copy of the survey and we might be able to give some input.
                (1) Is going to send us a copy of a pre-survey as well as the eventual survey.
            b) Question: do faculty and student senate ever work together? Answer: not often. In terms of this survey, working with this committee seems more feasible.
        5. We might want to cycle back around the question of collecting syllabi-- both for potential assessment and for HLC.

<ol type="a" start="1">
Could this be the kind of thing that Administrative Assistants could help with?

<ol start="6">
In terms of survey, we want to keep the difference between assessment and faculty performance clear. Want to focus on tech tools and modalities.
As we think about assessment, we want to make sure we are treating all modalities the same.

E. Might be helpful to get both our report and the HLC report to the department chairs and program directors as soon as possible. That will help people understand what we have done and why we are allocating resources in the ways that we are.

<ol type="I" start="2">
RNL Survey
<ol type="A">
In addition to the templates, we could think about some of the details through J.J.
Going to send the RNL template to the cabinet. We will send this draft to cabinet with the request that they allow us to send out the information. We will also send out the breakout of the questions.

Unanimous support.

Next RNL survey is ordered and will go out the end of March.

HLC Again
<ol type="A">
Elizabeth will follow up with the distribution plan for the HLC report.

ISLO Committee Meeting
March 3, 2021

Present: Marcia Bunge, Becky Fremo, J.J. Akin, Angela Erickson, Lianying Shan, Elizabeth Kubek, David Menk, Sarah Ruble.

I.   Quick update on RNL Data and possible sharing with community
     A. Need increased capacity for writing high-level summaries, pulling key points, etc. to support David Menk
         1. Can we find a student employee who is dedicated to this and reports to either David or Elizabeth? Statistics majors may provide a good place to pull either student employees or interns.
II. Scope, Shape, Name, and Composition of ISLO Committee
     A. In some ways ISLO Committee has "lived beyond" the acute need for ISLO focus
     B. Broader conversation about on-campus data governance, data stewardship, data literacy, etc.
     C. What is intersection of department/program assessment data and institutional survey data? How are both used/shared/analyzed?
     D. Possible starting point: the Academic Data Committee will practice data stewardship, support data governance, and promote data literacy. As part of its data stewardship mandate, the ADC will lead and coordinate academic assessment processes and reporting at the College level.
         1. How does this consider (or not) institutional data that is outside the purview of academics?

ISLO Minutes, April 7, 2021

Present: Angela Erickson, Elizabeth Kubek, David Menk, JJ Akin, Marcia Bunge, Sarah Ruble, Evelyn Doran, Ben Menke, Rebecca Fremo

The agenda from the previous meeting was approved by acclamation.

The members discussed the Motion put forward by Sarah Ruble to disband the Committee as constituted. This was approved 9-0-0.

The Committee then discussed formation of a possible new body dedicated to collating and disseminating assessment data in an accessible mode. The group agreed that this was desirable, and that the goals of such a group should be to support authentic and appropriate use of assessment data; to support the Assessment Director and the IR Office in promoting effective use of existing data, both internally and externally; and to assist faculty in discerning how best to develop data projects and initiate requests.   The members agreed toassist in such a project, to start in the Fall of 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Kubek

Motion: I move that we disband the Institutional Student Learning Outcomes Committee with the understanding that a group of people with responsibilities regarding data collection and/or dissemination will meet next fall to discuss how best to disseminate data to appropriate constituencies be it through existing committees, a new committee, an office, or a position.

Rationale: The Institutional Student Learning Outcomes committee has long been a committee with an unclear mandate. Originally intended to organize the assessment of ISLOs, the committee lost some of its function when ISLOs were greatly simplified in the last ISLO revision. For the last few years, the committee has worked to transform itself into a data literacy committee. That mission, while laudable, has not worked as intended. The committee was not set-up as a data literacy committee so committee members do not necessarily have the necessary expertise. The committee's authority over institutional data is also unclear. It has never been granted such authority by the Cabinet (and, even were it to receive it, it is unclear, again, that this committee as currently constituted is best equipped to disseminate data and educate the campus about it).

At the same time, other developments on campus have moved in a positive direction. Both the Office of Institutional Research and a faculty group (led by Kyle Chambers) are making more data accessible in more forms to campus constituencies. The campus as a whole has grown more accustomed to thinking about the need for data. Both Academic Affairs and Student Life are regularly getting and disseminating their internal assessment data.

This motion suggests that we build on these developments by bringing together people who, owing either to position or training, are positioned to collect, disseminate, and educate about data. That group can then decide a model for data collection and dissemination that makes sense within our institutional structure, be it an appointed committee, an office, or a position. Moving in this new direction will ensure that those best equipped to help the campus use data well are making decisions about it going forward.