



FORTNIGHT

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A Communiqué focusing on topics related to Outcomes Assessment, Institutional Effectiveness, and Institutional Research produced jointly by the Office of the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) at the College of Staten Island/The City University of New York

www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment

WHAT IS FORTNIGHT?

A **fortnight** is a unit of time equivalent to 14 days. The term derives from the Old English *feorwertyne niht*, meaning "fourteen nights." Inspired by the opportunities and challenges of Middle States Standard 14 and the desire to share information and best practices, **FORTNIGHT** is a communication vehicle which is distributed online to the campus community. Prior issues are available on the Office of the Associate Provost website, at www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment

THE COLLEGE'S DAY OF ASSESSMENT SHOWCASES CAMPUS INITIATIVES ACROSS DIVISIONS

The College of Staten Island has hosted a Day of Assessment each spring since 2003, with the exception of 2008. Dr. Steven Johnson, former Director of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, Dr. Ivan Smodlaka, former Director of Testing, and Dr. Wallace Orłowsky, retired faculty member in Psychology, were instrumental in structuring early events. Over the years, panels on General Education, Core 100, assessment in the majors, institutional effectiveness, and implementation challenges have been featured. In 2007, Dr. Linda Suskie, Vice President of the Middle States Commission, was sponsored by CUNY for a two-day series of presentations on assessment topics, open to the entire CUNY system, in place of the usual single-day event.

Making use of information gathered from previous years' participation surveys, the format of the Day's presentations has been revised through the years. Instead of panels and roundtables, presenters representing varied aspects of assessment and institutional effectiveness now share approaches, findings, and plans with the CSI community and guests from other CUNY institutions. Following a break in 2008, the Day of Assessment resumed in spring 2009, and was held in a different location. This year's conference features topics related to student exit surveys, Library programs and operations, transportation and sustainability, and the Middle States reaccreditation process, among others. We are fortunate to have significant documentation from past events, including Dr. Suskie's presentations. These resources, including video recordings of every Day of Assessment, are available through the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

PREPARING FOR THE MIDDLE STATES SELF-STUDY: STANDARD 11

Standard 11: Educational Offerings

The institution's educational offerings display academic content, rigor, and coherence appropriate to its higher education mission. The institution identifies student learning goals and objectives, including knowledge and skills, for its education offerings.

Several committees oversee activities that speak directly to Standard 11: The College's Curriculum Committee approves proposals for new courses and programs at the undergraduate level; the Graduate Studies Committee does the same for graduate programs; the General Education Committee determines which courses fulfill designated General Education requirements, including Pluralism & Diversity, Contemporary World, Science and Technology, and Textual, Aesthetic, and Linguistic Analysis. Each of these committees requires that student learning objectives and plans for assessment are included on all proposals for course or program changes. In addition, the work of the College-wide Assessment Committee advances the assessment of student learning by sharing approaches to assessment and measurement, and identifying best practices.



CLOSING THE LOOP: COURSE AND STANDING COMMITTEE REVIEWS AND REVISES FORMS, WITH SEVERAL OBJECTIVES IN MIND

The Committee on Course and Standing is the Faculty Senate body charged with considering all matters affecting the academic standing of all undergraduate students at the College. This charge often involves reviewing and voting on petitions submitted by students requesting grade changes, allowing additional attempts at the CUNY Proficiency Examination (CPE), readmission to the College after academic dismissal, and other matters. Members found that the petition forms needed revision to address administrative changes in the processes; this revision process afforded an opportunity to also clarify instructions and provide opportunities for the Committee to collect additional data. Dr. Ann Booth and Ms. Mary Murphy of the Counseling Center, Assistant Registrar Jennifer Franco, and Interim Academic Advisement Director Suzy Shepardson recently collaborated to update both the "Instructor's Grade Change Release Form" and the "Course and Standing Petition Application," and the revisions to both these forms were warmly received by the Committee members. The Offices of Academic Advisement and Academic Support are also collaborating in a similar effort to address the CPE petition form and application process, and hope to have a final product this semester. The effects of these changes will be monitored and reviewed by the Committee to determine whether additional adjustments are needed to facilitate the work of the Committee.

CAMPUS UPDATES

As the culmination of an accreditation process for the Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, the Nursing Department hosted a three-member team of evaluators from the NLNAC (National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission) on February 3-5, 2010. The NLNAC focuses on standards pertaining to mission and administrative capacity, faculty and staff, students, curriculum, resources, and outcomes. During the exit interview, attended by President Morales, the visiting team praised Nursing Department Chair, Dr. Mary O'Donnell, and members of the department for a strong program, giving particular emphasis to the strength of the faculty-student relationship. The team recommended a full eight-year accreditation for the Bachelor's Program. A full report is expected later this spring, with a final review by the NLNAC national panel in July 2010. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Nursing Department's Baccalaureate Curriculum Committee, chaired by Dr. Susan Mee; Dr. Mary O'Donnell; and all faculty, staff, students, and affiliate agencies who contributed to this very strong, positive outcome!

CUNY NEWS AND EVENTS

Results from a Faculty Experience Survey sponsored by the University Faculty Senate were released recently. The survey presents updates to data collected in 2005. Questions span a wide range of topics from resources to facilities and campus support on each of the senior college campuses. Our readers can access results at www.cunyufs.org/FES.

A spring conference focusing on Middle States accreditation entitled "***Middle States Review – Opportunities and Pitfalls***" is being sponsored by the University Faculty Senate on Friday, April 30, 2010, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at The Graduate School and University Center. The event is designed to provide a forum for information-sharing about the Middle States review processes. Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Alexandra Logue will provide an overview of the Middle States reviews, followed by panel discussions featuring campuses with recent Middle States experience. Given CSI's early stage in the reaccreditation process, this event provides a timely opportunity for representatives from our campus to learn from the experiences of CUNY institutions that have recently undergone review. We hope to have significant representation at the event. Registration is required. Please contact Ms. Vernice Blanchard at 212-794-5508 or via email at vernice.blanchard@mail.cuny.edu by April 16 if you wish to attend.

FORTNIGHTLY NOTES

Springtime is often seen as an opportunity to thoroughly clean one's house. In Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse* (1910), the titular character "got up very early and began a spring cleaning which lasted a fortnight."

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by **April 16, 2010** for consideration to appear in the next communiqué.

