

Notes from Focus Group

The WASC Curriculum Committee met April 7, 2003, 12.30 p.m.. Saturn Room, SMACE building. Present were Anne Christy, Jeanette Robinson, Pat Brown, Carole Courshon, Diane Hagemen (Chair) and Maryanne Silber.

As Jeanette Robinson needed to leave early, the first discussion centered on how we should handle assessment, particularly the assessment of senior citizens in unusual settings. We could use observation, TOPS Pro, number of participants actively involved, or request that Rec. Center students do a survey.

A. We discussed assessment.

- How do we know the goals of a class?
- How do we assess students' personal goals?
- Can we assess how much our course involves lecture, independent study and hands on learning?
- How do we assess whether these methods are appropriate for the course material?

B. We discussed a survey and the types of general questions we could ask.....

- Do you look forward to this class? If so, why? If not, why not?
- Is this class meeting your needs at this moment in your life?
- Do you use what you learn here at home, at work, or socially?
- Do you like the way the other students and the staff treat you?

C. Then, agreeing we had been putting the cart before the horse, we took a step back and discussed what we were doing in the area of curriculum.

- Is this committee for WASC or for the school's benefit?
- Do we have criteria for upward mobility, such as an exit exam?
- Should we remind ESL teachers to use some form of exit evaluation and keep records for the WASC group?
- Should we institute 3-5 simple goals per class school-wide in the ESL area that might help with class placement and promotion?

We agreed that for the next meeting we needed to re-evaluate the current curriculum/ plan and its relevance today.

The meeting adjourned at 1.30 p.m. with the understanding we had been trying to look at the background of the topics and would need further definition of the tasks.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryanne Silber.