Report:	Assessment Plan Details for: Department of Biological Sciences
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Workspace:	Operational Plan & Assessment Report - OPAR
Assessment Plan:	2010-11Cycle: Assessment Plan and Assessment Findings
Assessment Plan Template:	OPAR Assessment Plan
Report Generated:	Thursday, February 10, 2011

Measures and Findings

Department of Biological Sciences Unit Goals

1. Increase Retention Rates

At least 80% of undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in fall 2010 will re-enroll in fall 2011 from 77.7% (undergraduate) and 80% (graduate) by increasing tutorial services and implementing assessment plans.

1. At least 80% of students will re-enroll in fall 2010

At least 80% of undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in fall 2010 will re-enroll in fall 2011 from 77.7% (undergraduate) and 80% (graduate) by increasing tutorial services and implementing assessment plans.

Mapped to:

- FSU Strategic Priorities, Initiatives, and Indicators: 1.1.5.,
- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.2

Measures & Findings

Retention data calculated in two ways
Institution level; Direct - Other

Details/Description: FSU will measure retention in two ways. The first will be the standard method used throughout higher education which tracks re-enrollment and subsequent degree completion of students who enter as first-time, full-time first-year students. The second non-standard method will consider all students enrolled in fall 2010 who did not complete a degree in the academic year and determine the percentage of these students who re-enroll in fall 2011. The retention rate based on the standard and non-standard methods will be at least 80%. The university will also apply the non-standard method to subgroups of students, including undergraduate and graduate students, transfer students, Pell recipients, military students, male and female students, and adult learners. The intended outcome for African American Male students will be at least 76%.

Acceptable Target: 80% of students will be retained in the department

Implementation Plan (timeline): During fall 2010, strategies for improving retention will be conducted.

Key/Responsible Personnel: Directors of externally funded programs with tutoring services in the sciences such as Dr. James Raynor (RISE), Erin White (Optimum), Dr. McNeill-Blue (McNair), Dept Chair (Dr. Kassem) to track courses with high DFW rates.

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for Retention data calculated in two ways

Summary of Findings: The Midyear findings show that 76.4% of our students are retained which falls below the 80% target. Target was not reached possibly due to the lack of students seeking tutoring services. Midyear findings of students tutored in biology courses show only 14 students received tutoring; however, only 6/14 or 43% of students received a C or better after tutoring.

Acceptable Target Achievement: Not Met

Recommendations : Students will be encouraged to seek tutoring through the CPSER or OPTIMUM programs before midterms.

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

29-CPSER Student (Tutee) Information Fall 2010Nelson.xls (Microsoft Excel)

6-Minutes-1-4-11.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Fall 2010 Retention Data Biological Sciences2.xlsx (Excel Workbook (Open XML))

2. Increase the Number of Majors in Low Producing Programs

In 2010-11, increase the number of students majoring in low-producing undergraduate degree programs (chemistry, biotechnology, secondary science education) by 25% and the graduate degree program (MS in Biology) by 80% by increasing the number of dual enrollments and/or articulation agreements with community colleges and other institutions.

1. Increase students in low-producing majors

Measures & Findings

In 2010-11, increase the number of students majoring in low-producing undergraduate degree programs (biotechnology, secondary science education) by 25% and the graduate degree program (MS in Biology) by 80%.

Mapped to:

- FSU Strategic Priorities, Initiatives, and Indicators: 1.4.3.,
- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.1

Increase Graduation Rates in Low Producing Programs

Program level; Direct - Other

Details/Description: -Increase students graduation rate in Secondary Education from 10.7% to 13%.
-Increase students graduation rate in BS Biotechnology from 10% to 33%.
-Increase students graduation rate in MS Biology from 16.7% to 30%.

Acceptable Target: At least 13% graduation rate for BS Bio SecEd
At least 33% graduation rate for BS Biotechnology
At least 30% graduation rate for MS Biology

Implementation Plan (timeline): During Fall 2010, strategies for low programs will be implemented including increasing articulation agreements.

Key/Responsible Personnel: Dept chair (Dr. Kassem), Asst Dept Chair (Dr. Zhu), Dr. Johnston (BS Bio Sec Ed), and Dr. Fleming (Director of the Biotechnology Program).

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for Increase Graduation Rates in Low Producing Programs

Summary of Findings: 1. Midyear Data: The department will gather the data from our undergraduate programs at the end of the spring 2011.
2. Graduate Program (MS in Biology): The minutes from the "Graduate Committee" meetings are attached.
3. Currently, there are 15 registered students in MS Biotechnology program among which 7 are seniors. This is an increase from 12 students last year. One student graduated in fall 2010 which gives us a graduation rate of 6.7%. However, this rate may increase up to 40% with the spring 2011 graduates. This data was provided by Dr. Fleming, the Director of the Biotechnology program.
4. Several strategies are discussed and some are implemented to increase enrollment in low producing undergraduate and graduate (MS Biology) programs: See the attached minutes from the Departmental meetings.

Acceptable Target Achievement: Not Met

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

- 1-Meeting_Minutes_08-24-10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))
- 1-Minutes_8-12-10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))
- 2-Meeting_Minute_10-05-10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))
- 2-Minutes_8-18-10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))
- 3-Meeting_Minutes_10-12-10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))
- 3-Minutes_9-7-10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))
- 4-Minutes_10-7-10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))
- 4-Minutes_11-18-10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))
- 5-Minutes-11-2-10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))
- 6-Minutes-1-4-11.docx (Word Document (Open XML))

3. Enhance Students Competencies

In 2010-11, the Department of Biological Sciences will continue to improve critical thinking in each program by creating capstone courses and requiring students to take the CLA exam.

3. 100% of programs will have a capstone course.

3. In 2010-11, the Department of Biological Sciences will continue to improve students critical thinking in each program, increase capstone courses, and improve CLA scores.

Measures & Findings

No measures specified

Mapped to:

- FSU Strategic Priorities, Initiatives, and Indicators: 1.2.3., 1.4.2.

Increase Students' Critical Thinking Skills

Increase Students' Critical Thinking Skills by improving CLA total score from 1188 (fall, 2009 score) to 1240.

Mapped to:

No Mapping

Measures & Findings

CLA Exam
Institution level; Direct - Exam

Details/Description: Students will be required to take the CLA exam in Biology 150 during their Freshman year. During their senior year, students will be required to take the CLA exam again in a 400-level course or capstone course developed.

Acceptable Target: At least 80% of students taking the CLA exam will achieve competencies at expected levels.

Implementation Plan (timeline): During Fall 2011, students will be required to take the CLA exam as part of the course requirements.

Key/Responsible Personnel: Faculty teaching sections of Biology 150, Dept Chair (Dr. Kassem), Dept Asst Chair (Dr. Zhu)

Supporting Attachments:

No Findings Added to CLA Exam

3. Enhance Research & Scholarship

In 2010-11, the Department of Biological Sciences will submit at least ten grant proposals.

1. Enhance Research & Scholarship

In 2010-11, the Department of Biological Sciences will submit at least ten grant proposals and at least ten research articles for publication.

Mapped to:

- FSU Strategic Priorities, Initiatives, and Indicators: 5.2.1., 5.2.2.,
- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.4

Measures & Findings

1. Increase the Number of Grant Proposals Submitted and funded
Other level; Direct - Other

Details/Description: The Department will increase the number of submitted grant proposals to ten.

Acceptable Target: Twelve grant proposals submitted by faculty.

Implementation Plan (timeline): During academic year 2010-2011, 10 grant proposal will be submitted.

Key/Responsible Personnel: The Department's faculty members will be expected to submit at least one proposal

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for 1. Increase the Number of Grant Proposals Submitted and funded

Summary of Findings: Midyear: The Department faculty submitted 6 grant proposals to external agencies. This is very close to the target which is 10 grant proposals. We are confident that we will meet the target by the end of the academic year.
Information about submitted proposals is in Digital Measures.

Acceptable Target Achievement: Not Met

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

31-Proposal-Awards-Submissions-Active-070110-063011 as of 71310Camps (File)

32-Proposal Submissions-070109-063010Camps (File)

Increase research articles submitted for publication
Other level; Direct - Other

Findings for Increase research articles submitted for publication

Details/Description: Faculty will be expected to conduct and submit research articles for publication and/or attend and present at conferences.

Acceptable Target: All faculty in the department are expected to contribute scholarly work. At least 10 articles are expected to be submitted.

Implementation Plan (timeline): During the academic year 2010-2011, ten research articles and/or abstracts are expected to be submitted for publication and/or conferences respectively.

Key/Responsible Personnel: Dept Chair (Dr. Kassem) and Research Committee Chair

Supporting Attachments:

Summary of Findings: Midyear: The Department faculty submitted 12 manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals. This exceeds the target which is 10 manuscripts. More manuscripts will be submitted by the end of the academic year. Information about submitted manuscripts is in Digital Measures.

Acceptable Target Achievement: Exceeded

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

4. Improve Students Satisfaction

In 2010-11, the Department of Biological Sciences will achieve students' satisfaction with advisement at 90%.

1. Improve Students Satisfaction with Advisement

In 2010-11, the Department of Biological Sciences will achieve students' satisfaction with advisement from baseline of 84.38% (fall 2009) to 90%.

Mapped to:

- FSU Strategic Priorities, Initiatives, and Indicators: 6.2.2.,
- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.3

Measures & Findings

1. Improve Students Satisfaction with Advisement

Institution level; Indirect - Survey

Details/Description: The Department will receive advisement survey results from institutional research and academic affairs.

Acceptable Target: At least 90% of students taking the advisement survey will be satisfied with the quality of academic advisement in their respective department.

Implementation Plan (timeline): Surveys will be administered by the administration (Academic Affairs) starting Fall, 2010 during registration.

Key/Responsible Personnel: All faculty members in the Dept are responsible for advising students.
The Dept Chair is responsible for assigning advisees to faculty members.

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for 1. Improve Students Satisfaction with Advisement

Summary of Findings: Midyear: 63.9% of our students are satisfied with the quality advisement (agree or strongly agree). This is lower than the target (90%) and the department is committed to improve advisement quality for our students.

Acceptable Target Achievement: Not Met

Recommendations : Recommendations are reflected in the discussions during the Departmental meetings of which the minutes are attached to this OPAR.

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

14-ABBREV FACULTY PRESENTATION - ACADEMIC ADVISING.pptx (PowerPoint Presentation (Open XML))

15-What Advisors need to know about the Law.ppt (Microsoft PowerPoint)

16-WHY IS ADVISING IMPORTANT.ppt (Microsoft PowerPoint)

17-Workshop Conclusion.ppt (Microsoft PowerPoint)

18-Why are we having this workshop.ppt (Microsoft PowerPoint)

19-The Do's and Don'ts of Academic Advising.ppt (Microsoft PowerPoint)

8-Advising Survey 201060 vs 200960 ShortCAS1.xlsx (Excel Workbook (Open XML))

9-NSSE-2009-Report.xlsx (Excel Workbook (Open XML))

6. Assess SLO

1. Improve Communication Skills

The students' oral presentation and writing assignments (term papers) in each course will be evaluated separately

Mapped to:

- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.1

Measures & Findings

Oral presentations and writing assignments

Program level; Indirect - Other

Details/Description: The students' oral presentation and writing assignments (term papers) in each course will be evaluated separately

Acceptable Target: At least 80% of students will achieve competencies at expected levels (gain a C or above) in oral presentation and writing assignments

Implementation Plan (timeline): Fall 2010 and spring 2011

Key/Responsible Personnel: Faculties teaching BIOL320, BIOL 620 and course involving presentation and writing assignments. Chair, assistant chair, and program director/coordinators

Supporting Attachments:

Findings for Oral presentations and writing assignments

Summary of Findings: Midyear Findings:
1. During spring 2011, faculty members teaching required courses will be informed to require that the students take the CLA exam in their course syllabus.
2. At least 125 students our of 280 (~40% of majors) will take the CLA exam during the fall 2011.

Acceptable Target Achievement: Met

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

10-KLodhi-FOR400_assessment.doc (Microsoft Word)

10-KLodhi-FORS400.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

11-FORS 420-Presentation Assessment.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

12-FORS 420 Lab Test and Presentation Assessment Report.doc (Microsoft Word)

4-FS Assessment Report modified 8-26-10-Forensic sicence.doc (Microsoft Word)

5-Assessment_Fall 2010.docx (Word Document (Open XML))

6-Guidelines for a Research_Term Paper.docx (Word Document (Open XML))

7-Lab Report Rubric_ML.xlsx (Excel Workbook (Open XML))

8-KLodhi-FORS 200 Assessment.docx (Word Document (Open XML))

9-KLdhi-FORS 200 Presentation Assessment.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

BIOL430_Kassem_Grades_Fall_10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))

Rubric_For_Oral_Presentations.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

Tips_For_Pres.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)

2. Improve Critical Thinking Skills

BS Biology SLO #6: Student will be able to demonstrate the ability to read, understand, and critically review scientific information

BS Forensic Science SLO # 2 Show proficiency in assessing, evaluating, analyzing, and synthesizing scientific information and data from variety of sources

Measures & Findings

Capstone course and comprehensive/exit exam

Course level; Direct - Exam

Details/Description: BS Biology SLO #6: Student will be able to demonstrate the ability to read, understand, and critically review scientific information

Findings for Capstone course and comprehensive/exit exam

Summary of Findings: Midyear Findings:

1. During spring 2011, faculty members teaching required courses will be informed to require that the students take the CLA

BS Biotechnology SLO #3. Students will be able to read, understand, review and communicate biotechnology related knowledge in oral and written forms

MS Biology SLO #5. Apply knowledge through critical thinking, inquiry, and analysis. Students should be able to inspect data and apply basic statistics to their analysis.

All students in B.S Biotechnology are required to take capstone course. All students in B.S Forensic Sicencesare required to take exit exam . All students in M.S Biology are required to take comprehensive exam. Eventually, all students in B.S Biology will be required to take capstone courses that are under developing.

Mapped to:

- USA- SACS- Comprehensive Standards (Section 3): 3.3.1.1

BS Forensic Science SLO # 2 Show proficiency in assessing, evaluating, analyzing, and synthesizing scientific information and data from variety of sources

BS Biotechnology SLO #3. Students will be able to read, understand, review and communicate biotechnology related knowledge in oral and written forms

MS Biology SLO #5. Apply knowledge through critical thinking, inquiry, and analysis. Students should be able to inspect data and apply basic statistics to their analysis.

All students in B.S Biotechnology are required to take capstone course. All students in B.S Forensic Sicencesare required to take exit exam . All students in M.S Biology are required to take comprehensive exam. Eventually, all students in B.S Biology will be required to take capstone courses that are under developing.

Acceptable Target: At least 80% of students will pass capstone courses and/or comprehensive/exit exams

Implementation Plan (timeline): Students will take comprehensive/exit exams and/ or capstone course for B.S. Forensic Sciences, M.S Biology, and B.S Biotechnology in Fall 2010 and Spring 2011. Students in B.S Bilogy will take a trial version of capstone course in Spirng 2010.

Key/Responsible Personnel: Dept Chair, Dr. Kassem, Dept Asst Chair, Dr. Zhu, Forensic Program director, Dr. K. Lodhi. Dr. M. Lodhi (Biotechnology) Program, and Dr. Sherrice Allen (Biology).

Supporting Attachments:

exam in their course syllabus.
1. BS Biology: At least 125 students our of 280 (~40% of
majors) will take the CLA exam during the fall 2011.
2. BS Forensic Science:
3. BS Biotechnology:
4. MS Biology: 100% of students passed the comprehensive exam which required for MS Biology.

Acceptable Target Achievement: Not Met

Recommendations :

Reflections/Notes :

Substantiating Evidence:

1-Minutes_8-12-10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))

13-CPSER Student (Tutees) Information Fall 2009.xls (Microsoft Excel)

2-Minutes_8-18-10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))

3-Minutes_9-7-10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))

4-Minutes_10-7-10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))

5-Minutes-11-2-10.docx (Word Document (Open XML))

6-Minutes-1-4-11.docx (Word Document (Open XML))

STEM_Tutoring_Flyer.pdf (Adobe Acrobat Document)