To: Barbara Keyes and Edward Bujdos
From: Michael Dixon
Re: Assessment of the Human Services Program
Date: October 21, 2011

Hello,

I am the representative on the Assessment Committee that will be assisting you this year with your Assessment Plan. I am the painting and drawing faculty in the Art Department. If you would like or need to, I would love the opportunity to sit down with you in person to help with your 2011 Assessment Plan, answer any questions, or brainstorm ideas. I know that advising week is coming up, but any time after advising week we can sit down and have a coffee or two. Below I have included Beth Lincoln’s comments of your 2010 Report.

I have reviewed both your 2009 and 2010 Reports to get me up to speed. I have include my comments as well as the steps for the assessment plan:

**Part1 – Mission Statement**

In the mission statement you describe the following:

1) Explore interest in careers

2) Prepare students for entry-level job or graduate school

The mission statement seems career focused, and I would ask if there are any academic or scholarly goals? What if the student is interested in graduate school, what kinds of information are you providing for an academic career vs. an entry-level position outside of academics? Have you thought about looking at other Human Services Departments Mission Statements? This would be a great place to get ideas from and see how other schools define their mission, just some thoughts.

**Part2 – Learning Outcomes, “Students will learn…”**

I would ask yourself how your learning outcomes are reinforcing your mission or how are they relating back to your mission?

**Part3 – Where are these outcomes measured?**

I didn’t see anywhere in your 2009 or 2010 Reports where these outcomes are measured. In what classes do you measure these outcomes? The Geology Department has a great chart where they show the classes they introduce their learning outcomes, where they assess, where they emphasize, etc. The Art Department has recently adopted this chart for our assessment. I would be more than happy to share those materials with you, just let me know if you are interested.

**Part4 – How are these outcomes measured?**

It seems that your main form of assessment is student surveys. A student survey is a great part to assessment, but I would suggest you have some other way of assessing the success or failures of your curriculum like collecting a writing sample or having an exam that shows the students are learning the information. I would be more than willing to brainstorm some ideas with you.

**Part5 – Analysis, How are you using the data to make improvements? What are you going to change or not change?**

Your analysis is great. You are using the information gathered to make adjustments. That is fantastic!

*Thank you for your 2010 report on assessment of the Human Services concentration. The changes proposed for Human Services in Spring 2011 are lengthy and thoughtful; my only question stems from the fact that it was hard for me to tie some of them to the results of the assessment measure you describe. I would make the same comment about steps 5 and 6, in which you outline proposed changes to field placements. It was difficult for me to relate some of these (such as thank you cards) to your assessment. Overall, though, you are to be commended for using assessment to improve your program.*