Feedback for the FYE Assessment Report, October 24, 2011

Assessment Committee Primary Reader: Beth Lincoln

Secondary Readers: Michael Dixon, Jeremy Kirby

Summary: Thank you for submitting the FYE assessment plan/report. It clearly reflects much thought, and we would like to thank everyone who has helped. We do have a few specific comments.

Step 1: Mission

This seems to be a combination of mission statement, program description, and history (especially the paragraph on the Albion Advantage). This could be simplified to focus on the missions of the three components: seminars, associations, and CRE.

Step 2: Outcomes

The outcomes for the seminars are thoughtful and appropriate. How do you plan to develop similar outcomes for the associations and the CRE?

Step 3: Program components

Again, as noted in your document, this just deals with the seminars. Do you have a timeline for adding the other program components?

Step 4: Methods/data sources and Step 5: Analyze and interpret the data

A rubric for assessing writing is a good idea. It would be helpful if you would send a copy for the files. Are there plans to develop similar rubrics for the other outcomes?

Working to move faculty to a common understanding of the learning outcomes and to incorporating them in their courses, as you discuss, is an essential first step, but it is important that you make progress in designing and implementing assessment measures for these outcomes.

Step 6: Use of the data

You propose to pilot the assessment of writing this semester, using the writing rubric in a few seminars, and survey students on writing. Given that the seminars are described as “writing intensive” your plan to begin here, collecting direct data using the rubric as well as indirect information from surveys, makes sense, and we look forward to seeing the results.

Recommendations: Please remember that not all the outcomes, or even all the outcomes under one heading, need to be assessed at the same time. You might consider developing a rotation of outcomes to be assessed in any one year, to ensure that over some defined period of time, each outcome is assessed at least once. As new measures are designed, ones that have already given you sufficient information can become inactive until you wish to revisit that outcome.

If you have any questions, concerns or would like the Assessment Committee to assist you with your report, please contact your Assessment Committee liaison, Beth Lincoln.