

Faculty Meets To Discuss Assessment

Contributed by Kayla Robertson
Sunday, 16 March 2008

On Thursday, February 28, several faculty members, including professors from the Political Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science departments, met in the Anchor Room to discuss how to best assess student progress and class material/curriculum. The forum is part of a meeting to keep professors communicating with one another and sharing ideas about how to improve their classes. The forum is a social event with lunch served before a presentation on teaching philosophy and a discussion. Several teachers attended and students were invited to attend.

At the forum, Lorraine Gregory presented a PowerPoint about how to properly assess the needs of each class. She spoke about how to determine the needs of each student, how to make effective tests, and how to correct differences in curriculum, and objectives. Her goal was to present a way to make a class effective in reaching goals related to the course material and description while helping students feel successful and preparing them properly for their field.

The forum was hosted by and attended primarily by Mathematics and Computer Science professors (Dr. Lorraine Gregory works closely with both the Mathematics and Education departments) but the discussion was relevant to teachers across the disciplines.

At the end of the meeting it was proposed that all professors be required (or encouraged) to attend a seminar on how to effectively write objectives for class syllabi. The main concern is that vague or inaccurate wording in course objectives leads to ineffective classes because you can't assess non-specific goals in terms of failure or success.