



WESTMONT

MINUTES

Program Review Committee September 7, 2021

15:30 – 17:00

Winter Hall 210

Committee Member	Present	Absent
Angela D'Amour	x	
Elizabeth Gardner	x	
Michelle Hughes	x	
Tim Loomer	x	
Tatiana Nazarenko	x	
Maryke Van der Walt	x	
Diane Ziliotto		x

Meeting start: 15:31pm

1. Prayer

Tatiana Nazarenko offered a prayer.

2. Approval of PRC Minutes April 7, 2021. Minutes were approved.

3. Chair Election. Tatiana Nazarenko was elected as the PRC Chair.

4. Student diversity data summer project 2021

To help address WASC's request for Westmont to disaggregate data and monitor student academic progress, during the 2020-21 school year the PRC decided to generate divisional reports summarizing student academic performance in "introductory" coursework and disaggregate the data by a number of factors. Tatiana asked department chairs to provide a list

of courses they thought would be of introductory nature and of interest to the department. These were provided prior to the end of the 2020-21 school year. During the summer, the Registrar's office provided the PRC with a data set containing grades from the identified courses along with a number of additional variables. Tim prepared a summary report based on statistical analysis of the entire data set; he also prepared individual reports based on the grades from the courses they selected for all academic departments. Tatiana shared the reports with department chairs for review with their colleagues.

Interesting findings from the analysis:

Overall grades: Using the entire set of grades, the median assigned grade was a B+ and the mode was an A (about 45% of grades assigned were some sort of A). Departments varied in the grades assigned: GPA by department ranged from 2.767 to 3.912 (roughly B- to A averages with an "average-of-averages" of 3.189).

Race/ethnicity: Of the subgroups with a reasonable sample size, the GPA of the Hispanic/Latino (2.858) and Unknown (2.926) subgroups were significantly lower than that of the Asian (3.248), White (3.232), and Two or More Races (3.269) subgroups. The largest difference was a bit less than a B- versus B+ average.

HABH v AWU: Grouping together traditionally marginalized subgroups, the GPA of the HABH group was significantly lower than that of the AWU group (2.833 v 3.192). The difference was roughly equivalent to a +/- grade (0.389).

Gender: Females had a significantly higher GPA than males (3.139 v 3.060) but the difference (0.079) was small and actually smaller than that found in other grade data sets (for instance graduating high school GPA for males and females differ by 0.2).

First-Generation: Students in the first generation group had a significantly lower GPA than their non-First Generation peers (2.772 v 3.165). The difference was similar in size to that for race/ethnicity and HABH/AWU.

AP Exam: Students who scored a 4 or 5 on at least one AP exam while in high school had a significantly higher GPA than those that did not (3.500 v 2.907), indicating experiences AND success in rigorous high school course work was advantageous.

Cumulative SAT: As anticipated, cumulative SAT score was correlated with GPA.

Hedge's g: Hedge's g measures the effect size and allows for comparison of different factor pairs. Of the four factor pairs studied, AP Exam had the largest effect size followed by First Generation status, HABH/AWU, and gender. This generally aligns with what one might expect - prior success in challenging academic coursework has a greater effect on grades than other variables, however first-generation status and students from traditionally marginalized groups did not experience similar outcomes to their respective peers.

The Committee asked Tim to prepare a brief presentation for the faculty meeting in Spring 2022 (February). The Committee also decided to develop and administer a brief questionnaire about the diversity data submitted to the departments in the fall of 2021.

5. Committee's responsibilities and tasks for the 2021-2022 academic year. The major tasks for Fall 2021 include the evaluation of annual and six-year reports.

6. Program Review Handbook. Andrew reformatted and edited Program Review Handbook. It will be uploaded in the PRC Google folder for the committee members' to review by October 5th.

7. Communication Studies Department Request. The Department of Communication Studies requested one-year extension for the six-year report submission. The department was not able to complete the report last academic year due to the absence of their administrative assistant and the increased advising load and course preparation for all departmental faculty. The extension was granted unanimously. The department will submit their six-year program-review report in Fall 2022.

8. Annual and six-year report assignments.

All assignments will be attached to the meeting agenda as *Records* document. This semester, the Departments of Education and Biology will submit their six-year report (the Biology department received a year extension but they seem to be able to submit their report). The Department of Athletics will submit their assessment work that explores the possibility to change from the NAIA to the NCAA Division 2 as their program review report. It is not clear yet what is the deadline for submission their report.

Meeting adjourned at 4:33pm.

Minutes submitted by Andrew Sulayao.