

Reading Task Force Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2013

Participants: Gene Armao, Stephanie Schwartz, Rose Ann Cerofeci, Matt Cheung, Angie Kirk, Sara Blake, Brent Issacs, Briita Halonen, Victoria McCallum, Claudette Parks, Susan Corbin (minutes), Inna Newbury (meeting chair)

Purpose of meeting: To decide upon a department-wide test administration policy for the Townsend Press pre-test and exit exams to ensure SLO alignment and adequate assessment.

Summary of Group Discussion about aligning tests with SLO statements:

Arguments in favor of administering the pre-test Townsend exam at the beginning of the term focused on

how past SLO assessment cycles have been challenging because some of the test data (especially the Townsend pre-test) has been missing and/or inconsistently organized on the Parscore machine. This has made interpreting student performance very difficult.

Arguments against administering the pre-test Townsend exam focused on

- a. how the amount of time needed to administer four department-wide tests during the semester takes away from direct instruction.
- b. the question of whether it is in the students' best interest to receive instruction prior to taking this exam given that not all students will be familiar with test-taking skills, question terminology, etc.
- c. how some students lose motivation to take and successfully complete the class after taking the pre-test exam because they either pass it with high scores or fail it with very low scores.

Group Decision:

Participants voted for a one-year trial/pilot policy to begin Fall 2013:

- a. All reading class instructors are required to give pre- and post-test Townsend Press exams.
- b. The Townsend pre-test must be administered during the first two weeks of the semester and scored using the Parscore machine (pink Scantrons required).

The administration of the DRP tests during the middle of the semester and at the end of the semester will remain the same.

Future Agenda Item:

One concern raised during the discussion is that the Townsend and DRP tests are written at the English 84 level. This includes the English 80 and 82 classes. The group agreed to address this matter when school resumes for the Fall 2013 semester.