

Using IDEA at Goshen College

Considering our campus needs for a course evaluation system, the following model describes the assessment committee's recommendation with regard to implementing The IDEA Center's Student Ratings of Instruction system on campus.

Recommendation: Transition to IDEA for 2013-14

- 1) **Adopt IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction across all courses, retiring the current GC evaluation form**
 - a) All teaching faculty administer the IDEA Diagnostic (full) form in one course per semester. Administration is coordinated in the Dean's Office.
 - b) In conjunction with 1.a above, IDEA's Diagnostic (full) form could be used in targeted situations, such as:
 - i) New course launch
 - ii) Faculty development programming
 - iii) Promotion & tenure review preparation
 - iv) Course review (e.g., GC Core)
 - c) The IDEA short form is used in all other courses
 - d) Add 3-5 institution-wide GC questions relating to core values to both long and short forms. Assessment committee will oversee the development of these questions. [See below for these questions]
- 2) Maintain current practice of requesting students to evaluate each course for each instructor each semester.
- 3) The Dean's Office will sponsor a variety of workshops to introduce and support faculty in implementing IDEA and interpreting results.
- 4) Rank & Tenure Committee will, over the next three years, work to clarify the intersection of this new approach with promotion & tenure policies and processes. Within three years (by the end of the 2015-16 academic year) the committee will advance a more specific proposal to the faculty for consideration.

See the reverse side for more details in the Assessment Committee's report on the Fall 2012 IDEA pilot.

Goshen College Core Values Questions					
The following questions ask about how this course integrated GC's Core values: Christ-centered, Passionate Learning, Servant Leadership, Compassionate Peacemaking, and Global Citizenship.					
1 = Not at all					
2 = Somewhat					
3 = Quite a bit					
4 = Very much					
N/A = Not applicable					
1	2	3	4	N/A	
					1. To what extent did the instructor relate the GC core values to the subject matter?
					2. To what extent was the instructor's commitment to the GC core values evident throughout the course?
					3. To what extent did this course contribute to your faith development?

Report on Fall 2013 IDEA Pilot

The Assessment Committee reviewed a variety of course evaluation systems during the fall of 2012. Late in the fall semester the committee sponsored a pilot of the IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction system. Several details of the pilot:

- IDEA student ratings of instruction is provided by the The IDEA Center, a non-profit organization based at Kansas State University. Much more about them can be found on their website (<http://www.theideacenter.org/about>)
- Several of the key advantages over our current system are that (a) this system allows departments and faculty to add their own custom questions; (b) this system provides many resources to faculty for using the evaluation information to strengthen their instruction and their courses (see <http://www.theideacenter.org/research-and-papers/pod-idea-center-notes-instruction> for examples)
- The free on-campus pilot involved faculty and students from 24 different courses (579 evaluations completed by students across these courses for a response rate of 84%)
- The pilot included all new courses in the GC Core as well as courses in the Bible/Religion, Biology, Business, Communication, Education, Nursing, PJCS, Psych, Social Work, Math, and Music departments

In January of 2013, members of the assessment committee met in schools-based meetings of those faculty members who participated in piloting the IDEA student ratings of instruction program for Fall 2012 courses. The following points capture feedback themes and questions assembled from our meetings:

Themes	Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IDEA represents an approach that is more closely aligned with the specifics of a course than our current uniform approach• Appreciation for the way in which IDEA provides more actionable information than our current model• Internal and external comparisons are helpful to provide context• Adjusted results are a helpful way of looking at results• The IDEA process invites critical reflection on the part of the professor (a plus)• Much more useful for talking to a departmental colleague about his/her teaching than current form (from dept. chair perspective)• Appreciation for ability to add custom questions• Appreciation for IDEA's focus on students' evaluation of their own progress on course objectives (in contrast to a dominant focus on rating the professor)• Learning curve for interpreting results is relatively steep for faculty members, but provides opportunity for focused professional development sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How would we opt to implement this system?• How do we best determine the discipline code to use for our courses to ensure that we get a good discipline-level comparison?• How much would IDEA cost?
