II. Overview of the Assessment Process (excerpted from 2015-16 SHP Assessment Report)

Just as the focus of the school and its organization is changing, so is the makeup of the committees and the assessment process. SHP has an assessment committee led by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs that has met periodically over the past few years, including two sessions in FY16. This is not considered a “standing committee” since the mission is not described in the school bylaws. The bylaws will be re-written this summer, and may create an assessment committee as a “standing” committee meeting once a month, and whose mission is described in the SHP bylaws.

Topics addressed by the Assessment Committee included review of the SHP learning goals, Value Rubrics produced by the Association of American College and Universities (Creative Thinking, Critical Reasoning, Information Literacy, Intercultural Knowledge, Oral Communication, and Ethical Reasoning), and two assessment software programs. Several discussions ensued regarding whether the number of learning goals should be reduced, as well as what rubrics might be utilized by all programs, but ultimately the committee decided to continue with those outcomes and specific program measures that were utilized in FY14. The major reason for this was the impending development of a new strategic plan as well as the school’s reorganization and reduction and consolidation of programs. The Associate Dean and committee members also spent time discussing software programs, viewing company introduction videos and also visiting with some of the other schools at Rutgers to determine the best way to collect and analyze the data.

In February, TracDat was chosen to be our official assessment program. From March up through today, courses, along with their individual course outcomes, are being loaded into this system. Unfortunately, each outcome must be individually loaded, a process that has become extremely labor intensive. To date over 700 courses have been added, and standard operating procedures have been developed to enter new courses as they are developed and approved by the Committee on Course and Curriculum Review.

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