



Pittsburg State University

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

August 30, 2010

Dr. Bobby Winters, Chair
University Assessment Committee
Pittsburg State University

Dear Dr. Winters:

Over the past several years, much progress has been made toward the institutionalization of assessment within our curriculum and various program areas at Pittsburg State University. Thank you to you and your committee for your leadership in this effort as well as participation in the HLC Assessment Academy. You have taken on a significant project in assessment of the core of general education. I understand that this is not an easy task. Last fall we established a Writing Task Force to review that aspect of our preparation of students. Based on the work of your committee and the HLC Assessment Academy team, it is time to establish a work group to review mathematics as it is part of the core general education requirement. With this letter, I am calling for the development of a Math Task Force to accomplish three broad goals. First of all, this Task Force will be charged with the examination of the existing mathematics requirements as they address needs of the diversity of majors at PSU. Second, propose a means of ongoing assessment of student learning in mathematics in its general education function. Third, the Math Task Force will propose effective changes to this instruction that are in keeping with our institutional goals of quality education linked to effective, formative assessment.

With this letter, I am asking that you, as Chair of the University Assessment Committee working with Bob Wilkinson, Director of Institutional Assessment, recruit a chair and or co-chairs for the Math Task Force, one of these being a member of the Department of Mathematics faculty. Additional membership of the committee should represent all four academic colleges and be a mix of faculty and administrators. To assure maximum articulation between the work of the Task Force and that of assessment and Higher Learning Commission accreditation, I would ask that the Director of Planning, Analysis, and Assessment also serve as a member of the Task Force or in an ex-officio capacity. In addition, due to the linkages between general education math and student success, I would ask that Bill Ivy, Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success, serve as a Task Force member or in an ex-officio capacity.

Obviously, the Task Force will want to develop a plan for ongoing communication with the Mathematics Department throughout their work. In addition, I will ask that a final report including recommendations be submitted to me by June 1, 2011. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to enhancing the general education math curriculum at PSU!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynette J. Olson".

Lynette J. Olson
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

cc: Provost's Leadership Council
Dr. Barbara McClaskey