Middles States 2010:  
Institutional Assessment and Assessment of Student Learning Preliminary Activities

The Committee on Institutional Assessment and Assessment of Student Learning organized and began its initial activities at the end of the Spring, 2009 semester. The committee is comprised of faculty members from all four undergraduate colleges, professional staff from Student Development, Unit, VITAL, Multi-cultural Affairs, and the Library, and two undergraduate students. The committee’s portfolio of concerns encompasses both the use of formal assessment processes in such administrative activities as strategic planning and the systematic integration of assessment into the student learning environment.

Early in the summer, the committee divided its study questions into four thematic clusters and a fifth cross-cutting set related to the Augustinian character of the university. The clusters are enumerated below, along with the committee subgroups working on them:

Assessment & Institutional Planning  
Committee members: Joe Lucia

Institutional Support & Integration of Assessment  
Committee members: John Kelley, Rich Wack, Carol Weiss, Fayette Veverka

Assessment & Uses of Assessment Results for Student Learning  
Committee members: Fritz Hartmann, Suzanne Smeltzer, Nancy O'Connor, Walt Tymon, Barbara Quintiliano, Jennifer Waddell

Assessment & Life Beyond the Classroom  
Committee members: Kathy Byrnes, Alexandria Brooks, Kristina Ruiz-Mesa

These subgroups engaged during the summer months in preliminary information gathering on each of the question clusters, including development of inventories of all pertinent reports, surveys, and other similar documents available within the colleges and other university organizational units that will inform our analysis. These materials will be assembled and reviewed to identify what we already know and to develop plans for filling in the knowledge gaps. The committee also identified all of the key individuals who will need to be interviewed to support its analysis and submitted that list to the Steering Committee.

In addition, during the summer months, the committee co-chairs developed a comprehensive timelines for committee work. Finally, in September, the committee met to outline action items for the Fall semester. Data gathering will continue through December, with analytical work to begin early in the New Year.

Submitted by Joe Lucia, Committee Co-Chair  
October 6, 2009