

Tipping Point Update
College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences
February 2008- August 2008

Part I: Learning-Centered Activities Related To Student Learning

- All graduate programs have completed drafts of assessment plans. Political Science, Economics, and History have their assessment plans externally reviewed.
- CLASS will sponsor its second annual Celebration of Learning-Centered Teaching in October 2008. We are hopeful that we can bring Professor Michael Meeks to campus to discuss the challenges of providing a learning-centered environment to millennial students.
- We have analyzed assessment data of our inaugural offering of our First Year Experience (FYE) course and are in the planning stage for the second offering of the course. The FYE advisory board is developing a course syllabus and modifying last year's assessment plan.
- The Learning and Teaching Committee continues to work on a host of learning-centered issues including the use of discussion in a learning-centered classroom. To this end the committee read *Discussion as a Method of Teaching: Tools and Techniques For Democratic Classrooms* by Stephen D. Brookfield and Stephen Preskill. The committee continues to work with the Faculty Center for Professional Development to determine an effective way of disseminating insights from this discussion to the broader university community.
- The Learning and Teaching Committee studied the feasibility of developing college-level learning outcomes. The committee ultimately decided that the current University Learning Outcomes reflect the goals of the college and so it would be redundant to develop a separate set of outcomes.
- In Winter 2009 The Learning and Teaching Committee will complete work on the nature of the Teacher-Scholar model and its implementation in CLASS. The work will be documented in a white paper with a series of recommendations forwarded to the Dean.

Part II: Organizational Learning In The College

- CLASS developed a database for the tracking and analysis of student petitions. Analysis of the data for trends that will allow us to consider curricular revisions will take place in Summer and Fall, 2008.
- CLASS is in the process of implementing its redesigned website. The new site will prominently showcase its commitment to a learning-centered philosophy. The site will contain links for faculty and staff to a host of learning-centered sites. It will also be linked to a page that has the learning outcomes for all programs in the college and to a learning and

- teaching page that will give faculty across the college the opportunity to stay abreast of the activities of the Learning and Teaching Committee.
- Each Department is in the process of prominently displaying program learning outcomes on its webpage. Political Science, Music, English and Foreign Languages, Philosophy and History have completed this task.

Part III: Budget, Planning, And Recognition

- CLASS redesigned its innovation in teaching award so that it is broader in scope and recognizes the whole range of learning-centered teaching activities. The first recipient of the new award will be named at Fall Conference.
- CLASS developed a draft of a learning-centered teaching award for part-time faculty. Ultimately there was not enough support for implementing the award.