

Ann Tatum

From: Andrew Lamers
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 12:46 PM
To: Ann Tatum; Kimberly Van Horne; Sheena Bhogal; Brenda Freaney; Jeannie Parent
Subject: RE: 60 FEE, ACDV POW and Accreditation

Hi Anne,

The use of the F.E.E. is supported precisely because it is an excellent means of assessing the SLOs for B60. Since a passing F.E.E. equates to students being able to write "C-" 250 word essays after 15 weeks of instruction and practice, this certainly doesn't place the bar too high.

When it comes to minimizing test biases, there are so many issues that could be brought to light, such as the use of multiple topics, the participation of ESL instructors in the topic generation and editing process (I routinely work with Jeannie and John Hart when doing my topic subcommittee work), using the McQuerrey guidelines for scoring ESL essays, requiring ESL essays to be scored by at least one ESL instructor whenever possible, and the existence of the retake and reread options when instructors feel that a student's F.E.E. score is unrepresentative of that student's abilities.

As a result, there's little question of the F.E.E.'s validity as an effective tool "in measuring student learning" and that multiple safeguards are in place to "minimize test biases."

Andy

"If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there." -- Sioux Proverb

From: Ann Tatum
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 11:17 AM
To: Kimberly Van Horne; Andrew Lamers; Sheena Bhogal; Brenda Freaney; Jeannie Parent
Subject: 60 FEE, ACDV POW and Accreditation

Hello all,

I am working on the Accreditation report, and a section about department exams has popped up. Becky Mooney pointed out that we have the FEE and the POW which are both department exams. What we need is some sort of documentation that proves that we do the following (if we do it, of course):

"If an institution uses departmental course and/or program examinations, it validates their effectiveness in measuring student learning and minimizes test biases."

If we don't do it, just let me know and I can write that up.

(For the part about bias, I was thinking about ESL involvement in topic selection. Do we have any documentation about that? Emails with ESL concerns?)

I just got this charge yesterday afternoon, and the report draft is due tomorrow. This is not likely to happen, but the sooner I can get this, the better—sorry for the super short notice!

Ann