

To: Council & Chair, Dept. of Economics
From: Undergraduate Studies Committee (Hansen, Park, Wisman)
Date: February 7, 2007

Re: Report on Open Meeting on Assessment
(attending: Feinberg, Hansen, Park, Reynolods, Wisman)

We discussed the range of options for assessment of the undergraduate student learning objectives. We recommend that the department try a combination of three methods of assessment: alumni survey (to be implemented in Spring 2007), student examination (to be implemented in Fall 2007), and revision of department and course questions on student evaluations of teaching (to be implemented in Fall 2007).

Questions about specific objectives can be easily incorporated into an alumni survey that will also allow us to maintain better contact with alums. This survey would build on an earlier version of the survey and could be completed online with the help of alumni relations.

We propose the department purchase (and probably modify) an existing test (such as the Test for Understanding in College Economics). The exam would be administered to students as part of their (now required) capstone experiences.

Finally, it would be straightforward to modify the departmental questions on the student evaluations of teaching to gauge student perception of how well they understand material related to the learning objectives. For objectives covered in a limited number of courses, instructors can add questions to their course evaluations.

Summary of Student Learning Objectives and Proposed Assessment Methods

Graduates of the BA, general track, will:

- 1) understand the model of market demand and supply;
assess by: department question on SET and examination (beginning Fall 2007)
- 2) understand the structure and evolution of economic institutions;
assess by: alumni survey (beginning Spring 2007), department question on SET and examination (beginning Fall 2007)
- 3) understand the strengths and limitations of economic theories;
assess by: alumni survey (beginning Spring 2007), department question on SET and examination (beginning Fall 2007)
- 4) understand how changing market conditions or policies may have different effects on different groups of people;
assess by: alumni survey (beginning Spring 2007), department question on SET and examination (beginning Fall 2007)
- 5) understand how to find, organize and display economic information, and
assess by: department question on SET and examination (beginning Fall 2007)
- 6) understand how to use economic reasoning in novel situations.
assess by: alumni survey (beginning Spring 2007), course question on SET and examination (beginning Fall 2007)

Graduates of the BA, international track, will meet objectives 1 through 5 and will:

- 7) understand the benefits and costs of international trade; and
assess by: course question on SET and examination (beginning Fall 2007)
- 8) understand the principles of international financial markets.
assess by: course question on SET and examination (beginning Fall 2007)

Graduates of the BS program will meet objectives 1 through 5 and will:

- 9) understand (linear) regression analysis.
assess by: course question on SET and examination (beginning Fall 2007)