Assessment of Student Learning: Update

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August 29, 2008
ASSESSMENT: 1. the act of assessing; appraisal; evaluation. 2. an opinion on the nature, character, or quality of something. 3. the act of placing a value on the nature, character, or quality of something
What is fueling the emphasis on assessment?

- U.S. Department of Education
- State Legislatures
- Accreditation Bodies (NEASC)
In 2006: University Learning Goals

Created by Chairs, Deans and Provost Office in response to NEASC: learning is focused on the classroom

- Pursue knowledge responsibly, evaluate it and transmit it to others
- Communicate clearly and effectively in both written and oral forms
- Demonstrate competency and ability in chosen areas of study
- Appreciate social and ethical responsibilities as citizens of the world
In 2006: Division of Student Life Core Values

To build a community based on mutual understanding and consideration: (CIRCLE)

- Citizenship
- Integrity
- Respect
- Civility
- Lifelong Learning
- Embracing Diversity
“Brandeis does not have a systematic, broad-based and integrated approach to assessment of student learning. . .the team was pleased to find a strong commitment. . .to create a culture that values and supports assessment and to provide the resources and leadership to achieve results.” (Site Team Report, p.12)
What is our challenge in 2008?

Generate an Interim Report to NEASC in Fall 2011 describing our success in “developing and implementing a comprehensive approach to the assessment of student learning, including the systematic review of academic programs to maintain and improve quality”

Letter to President Reinharz from Judith Gordon, Chair, New England Association of Schools & Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, April 10, 2007
What have we done?

*What else. . . .Formed a Committee!*

- Initiated February 1, 2007
- Chaired by Marty Krauss
- 13 original members (faculty and staff)
- 3 members added in 08-09
### Assessment Committee Membership (added in 08-09)

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<th>Faculty</th>
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Committee Learns About Assessment Measures for Student Life

There are 4 levels of evaluation that have the most impact:

- Effectiveness
- Skill Development
- Learning
- Satisfaction
Now: Guiding Principles of the Assessment Committee

- Holistic approach
- Reflective
- Tailored to specific unit
- Dynamic and evolutionary