ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
Second Annual Portfolio Review Day
2:00-4:00 p.m. Cramer Hall 141
11 June 2004

PRESENT
Kenneth Ames (Anthropology Department Chairperson and Anthropological Archaeologist)
Sharon Carstens (Anthropology Assessment Coordinator 2003-2004 and Sociocultural Anthropologist)
Margaret Everett (Sociocultural Anthropologist)
Michele Gamburd (Sociocultural Anthropologist)
Natalie Vasey (Biological Anthropologist)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

I. Assessment of Course Portfolios using ‘Applications of Anthropology’ Rubric

The group reviewed course portfolios from Anthropology 456: Issues in Cultural Resource Management and Anthropology 304: Social Theory focusing on sub-goal II.2, which states “Students will demonstrate an understanding of how the interplay among theory, research questions, methods, and data shapes our knowledge and/or interpretations of the human past and present.

Outcomes:
* Materials from Anth 304 included the course syllabus and copies of class assignments. However, the instructor had forgotten to keep copies of student work samples from the targeted project.
* Review of the course materials showed a strong integration of theory, research methods, and data analysis throughout the course, in spite of the fact that this course had been evaluated initially on the Department Curriculum map as only minimally addressing this goal.
* Materials from Anth 456 included the course syllabus, copies of class assignments, and copies of 10 student essays for the assignment targeted to address this goal. The group reviewed these materials.
* The instructor reported that he did not believe the outcome of this assignment adequately illustrated student understanding of this goal. In future, he said he would be more explicit in class on how theory connected to data and would redesign the assignment in a way that challenged students more specifically to make this connection. He also reported that the goals of this course were not as strongly directed toward Goal II.2 as he had previously thought.
* Following further discussion, the group suggested revising the ranking of this goal in both course on the curriculum map. Anth 304 would change from a 1 to a 3 score and Anth 456 would change from a 3 to a 2 score.
II. Scoring Rubrics

The group discussed the original plans to review the overall scoring rubrics and to develop rubrics for goals in Sections I and II.

Outcomes:

* The group reviewed the “Applications of Anthropology” scoring rubric and suggested that scoring under Instructor Materials in the “good” category be revised as follows: The first sentence should read: Material central to a section of the class but not integrated throughout the course.

* The group suggested that the Applications of Anthropology scoring rubric be used as the template for the goals in Section I and Section III. The only revisions necessary would be the specific goals for each section and the courses targeted for each section.

III. Assessment plans for 2004/2005

* The group decided to assess Section III. Theories in two courses for next year, to be chosen at the Fall Department Retreat.

* The group noted that we need to remind faculty who are responsible for collecting student work samples to be sure to do this.