Feedback for the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service Assessment Report, October 24, 2011

Assessment Committee Primary Reader: Beth Lincoln

Secondary Readers: Michael Dixon, Jeremy Kirby

Summary: Thank you for submitting the update for the Ford Institute. We agree that alumni mentoring is important for the Albion Advantage, but have a few questions.

* At present how many of your students are working with alumni mentors? Do you have a goal for how many will do so?
* The outcomes discussed under section 6, while worthy, are not student learning outcomes. How does this rubric relate to the student learning outcomes articulated in your assessment plan of 2009?
* It’s not clear when this assessment will take place. There is reference to the results being reviewed by the Internal Advisory Committee during the summer of 2011. Does this mean that the surveys were administered during Spring 2011?
* A minor point, but statement 61 on the survey is identical to statement 49.
* Did you carry out any other assessment activities in 2010-11?
* Do you have any other assessment activities planned for 2011-12?
* In your assessment report of 2010, you discussed a revised rubric for student presentations. Was this ever used? What did you learn from this assessment? Will you be repeating it again this year?

Recommendations:

* As you move forward, please be sure to make explicit for us the relationship between the student learning outcomes in your plan and the assessment measures you are developing.
* Please also think about developing more direct measures, in addition to the presentation rubric you have already employed.
* While not all your outcomes need to be assessed annually, you should be thinking about a time table for the assessment of each. How many outcomes should you be assessing each year in order to evaluate them all in a reasonable length of time? How often should each outcome be assessed in order to get meaningful data?
* Please remember to report on your data and your interpretation of that data.
* The most important section of any assessment report explains how assessment has led to improvements in the program. As stated in your feedback from 2010, “the Assessment Committee looks forward to hearing what you’ve learned…, and how assessment informs your on-going program restructuring.”

If you have any questions, concerns or would like the Assessment Committee to assist you with your report, please contact your Assessment Committee liaison, Beth Lincoln.