Response to First-Year Composition Assessment Methods

Based on “First-Year Composition Program Assessment Methods 2004” sent to me 10/5/04 by Rita Cheng

Strengths
Many strengths, here.
  • Clearly articulated goals and outcomes.
  • A number of direct and indirect assessment measures in place. These measures form a thorough and intensive assessment practice.
  • Practices supporting assessment are sensible, rich, and clearly explained
  • Initiatives based on recent assessment make sense.
  • Plans for assessment of change (column in “Initiatives based on recent assessment) is especially welcome and rare.

Suggestions
The program assessment is outstanding. The issues that constrain further program improvement are connected to work load and to the use of adjuncts, two major constraints that the university needs to address in the strongest way it can. The proposed study to link class size to retention and achievement is tempting, but may be extremely difficult to establish.