University of Dayton History Department Assessment

Reading and Writing: AY 2006-07

**Outcome #5:** Students completing the baccalaureate degree in History will be able to critically evaluate a variety of primary and secondary source material.

**Measure A:** In a triennial alumni survey, 70% of the respondents will agree that their advanced required History courses provided them with the ability to evaluate critically the information they read. In a related question, 50% of the respondents will agree with the following statement: “The research skills gained from my advanced required History courses are relevant to my life as a citizen.”

**Assessment:** The next alumni survey will take place in 2007-08.

**Measure B:** Every year the focus group, evaluated by the DAC, will be able to provide examples of how their History courses enabled them to critically evaluate primary and secondary source material.

**Assessment:** All students in the focus group could explain the distinction between primary and secondary sources. They gave a variety of examples of how to critically evaluate both kinds of sources.

**Outcome #6:** Students completing the baccalaureate program in History will be able to write clearly and analytically.

**Measure A:** In the annual senior close reading test, 60% of History majors will write with precision and insight in identifying the arguments used in various secondary sources.

**Assessment:** 86 percent of the students were able to meet this criterion.

Note that last year’s report recommended a discussion of some means of addressing our students’ problems in writing precise and insightful essays. The result of this discussion was a proposal for a new proseminar for history majors, HST 253.

**Measure B:** In a triennial alumni survey, 75% of the respondents will agree that their advanced required History courses provided them with writing skills that they find useful and relevant in their professional lives.

**Assessment:** The next alumni survey will take place in 2007-08.