The Council on Academic Affairs (CAA) and the Committee for the Assessment of Student Learning (CASL) are conducting a survey of faculty who teach general education courses. The targeted courses are those whose CAA-approved course proposal indicated the student learning objectives supported the general education goal that students would become responsible global citizens. These documents may be found at http://www.eiu.edu/~eiucaa/elibrary/.

During the site visit from the North Central Association (NCA) in February, it was suggested that Eastern needed to connect its learning goals and the assessment of those goals more directly to the curriculum. While the effective communication goal can be directly tied to the writing and speaking courses students are required to complete in general education, the global citizenship goal is more broadly spread throughout the general education offerings.

CASL and CAA decided to ask for the help of faculty members teaching general education courses in order to understand which of the global citizenship objectives are actually part of which general education courses. Faculty teaching general education courses in AY2004-05 whose course proposal indicated support of the global citizenship goal were sent a letter requesting that they complete an on-line survey.

This survey is designed to help CASL and CAA understand which courses actually respond to the global citizenship goal. Since it has been several years since the

The Speaking Across the Curriculum Committee (SAC) has been working this year to provide resources for faculty assessing students’ speaking skills in their courses. A survey of CMN 1310 and Senior Seminar Faculty in fall 2004 indicated that faculty would appreciate having electronic resources available for a variety of speaking topics.

Based on this feedback, SAC is developing resources on the assessment web site for faculty. Information on creating group and individual speaking assignments are already available.

In addition to these on-line resources, faculty members who are using the speaking rubric to assess speaking assignments in CMN 1310G/1390G or Senior Seminars are encouraged to use SAC members as resources. The following faculty members may be contacted concerning the using the rubric, creating (Continued on page 2)
revision of general education, CASL and CAA are aware that current practice in these courses may not be reflected by the documents residing in the electronic course library.

In the recently approved “General Education Assessment and Refinement” document, CAA calls on departments to “implement assessment of Gen Ed offerings at the department level. This can be integrated into Departmental Assessment Summaries. CASL will facilitate this through identification of appropriate assessment measures for use at the department level.” In order to help departments with this CAA recommendation, CASL is seeking input from faculty teaching these courses.

Making the connection to the curriculum and student learning recommended by NCA is especially important for the responsible citizenship learning goal because currently we are collecting only indirect data on this measure. After data from the faculty survey is analyzed, CASL will begin discussions on ways to assess this goal using direct measures.

Currently, the “become a responsible global citizen” goal is measured through an on-line survey that students take at orientation as freshmen and then again in the senior seminar courses. Data on these surveys are available on the assessment web site.

The indirect data show very little changes in student attitudes from freshman to senior year. CASL hopes that the faculty survey data will aid the committee in learning where the objectives related to this goal are being taught so that direct data can be collected related to student learning outcomes. If you received a letter concerning this survey, please take the time to complete it. It is available on-line at http://cats.eiu.edu/global_assess/faculty/survey.asp or there is a link from the assessment web site at www.eiu.edu/~assess.

As departments review their assessment plans and responses, they should consider talking to their deans about being nominated for the Provost’s Award for Assessment. In fall 2005, the application materials will be due October 7.

This award recognizes academic departments that, in the process of systematically assessing their majors’ achievement of learning objectives, adhere to established best practices in assessment, address university-wide learning goals in the major, demonstrate continuous progress in implementing their assessment plans, and cultivate a culture of assessment.

Past winners include the Departments of Chemistry, Economics, Communication Disorders and Sciences, and the Master’s of Business Administration. Recipients receive a monetary award for the department. This year winners will be asked to provide a short presentation on their assessment plan at a CASL forum. Additional information is available at http:// www.eiu.edu/~acaffair/assessment/.