Contact was made with the Office of the Institutional Effectiveness and Planning (OIRP) with regard to seeking their help in analyzing our assessment results. Here is what is available to us:

- They use a software product called Bubble Publishing (BP) for analysis purposes. To use this software we need answer sheets that will be printed on BP “special” paper. This paper is relatively cheap; a ream (500 sheets) is about $7. Therefore, the whole assessment will cost about $15. It was suggested by the OIRP that we buy the paper and they will do the budget transfer. We should not do anything specific just yet, because in May the OIRP will have a new scanner and the paper situation may be different.

- Using this process we do not need to worry about different types of scantron sheets and availability of those on every campus.

- The BP scanning software ONLY recognizes #2 pencil marks. So, if the OIRP create an answer sheet, and the faculty use an ink-pen for grading purposes, those marks will not interfere with the scanning process. We could grade the tests by HAND, calculate students’ final grades, and then collect and send the answer sheets to OIRP for scanning and more detailed item analysis.

- The faculty can bubble in students’ course grade, and it can be used for cross-tab purposes.

The Thompson Publishing will not be running a company-wide reprint of the 4th edition of the Stewart book. As a result, based on our needs Andrea Kesterke has informed the committee that the publisher will print 400 soft cover copies of the custom version of this textbook ((ISBN – 0495198579) at the net price of $70.00 in order to supplement the pool of the second hand Stewart books that the bookstores will buy back from the students.