

## **University Assessment Council Minutes**

Thursday, November 17, 2005  
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.  
419 Student Union

Present: P. Bowers, A. Carlozzi, J. Comer, G. Gates, B. Ivy, D. Jordan, G. Lage, L. Martin, J. Schatzer, D. Thompson, T. Weir, and G. Wilber

HLC Assessment Institute update – Last month the Council provided feedback to Dr. Strathe about their perceptions of the proposed HLC Assessment Institute. Strathe decided to wait until more information is provided by HLC about plans for the Institute before deciding whether or not OSU will participate.

Gates reported that an initial communication from HLC about the campus accreditation visit in September provided an opportunity for OSU to correct errors of fact in the draft response document. Gates indicated that assessment was not an area of concern indicated in the assurance section. Diversity was the major area of concern indicated. In two years OSU must develop a plan for progress in this area, and in five years OSU must report progress with this concern. The formal report from HLC is expected in approximately two months.

Update on supplemental budget request meetings for FY06 – Since the last Assessment Council meeting, Bowers has met with all eight programs that submitted supplemental budget requests. Funds were provided to the programs as discussed in the last meeting with a few adjustments based on clarifications provided in the meetings.

Council review of program outcomes assessment -- Ratings and comments from reviews of program outcomes assessment materials distributed at the previous meeting were collected from Council members. Feedback will be prepared and distributed to programs in January. Council members indicated that overall progress is being made, but there is still much room for improvement in program learning outcomes assessment.

General Education Assessment update – Greg Wilber, Chair of the General Education Assessment Committee, provided an update on the work done by the committee this summer. Documents were distributed that provided a list of courses that provided artifacts for each portfolio, used to assess students' achievement of writing, critical thinking, math, and science learning outcomes, respectively. In future years, the committee will return to a schedule of assessing two to three portfolios each year, and will begin to develop plans to implement assessment of learning goals related to diversity.

Next year the committee will collect and analyze rubric subscores for writing artifacts, in addition to the overall scores. This may help identify areas on which to focus writing improvement efforts.

The council discussed the idea of providing institutional level assessment of writing and critical thinking at the senior level, to support program learning outcomes assessment. Some council members believe that this would be viewed favorably by program faculty, as it could provide useful information for improvement of student learning but would not place additional demands on faculty time and program resources. The committee will continue to consider ways to provide this assistance.

A meeting will be scheduled in January between General Education Advisory Council, General Education Assessment Committee, and Assessment Council to discuss the General Education Assessment process. Wilber identified several concerns that will be topics of discussion at this joint meeting, including

- what are expectations for level of achievement of students' knowledge and skills as evaluated in these assessments?
- do expectations for level of achievement of science and math knowledge/skills differ for students in related majors and non-related majors, or is there a "baseline" expectation for all students?
- should assessment focus on, or be limited to, work done in courses with general education designations?
- if focus is on courses with general education designations, how will we assess the knowledge/skills of transfer students regarding these learning goals?

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) 2005 – A report of results of the Spring 2005 NSSE survey was distributed and discussed. The report provides comparisons of OSU students' responses with students from peer institutions, selected by OSU based on land grant status and geographic location (South). The report will be distributed to various councils and groups this semester. A more thorough discussion of the results, and development of any plans for action based on the results, will be held at the first Spring meeting of the Council.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Brenda Brown.