

University Assessment Council Minutes

Thursday, October 13, 2005
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
250 Student Union

Present: P. Bowers, A. Carlozzi, J. Comer, S. Haseley, B. Ivy, D. Jordan, L. Martin, S. Ownbey, J. Paustenbaugh, J. Schatzer, D. Thompson, T. Weir, and G. Wilber

Minutes from the September 1 meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Bowers distributed a document from the Higher Learning Commission website entitled "Student Learning, Assessment, and Accreditation."

Greg Wilber, chair of the General Education Assessment Committee, will report on the work of the committee at the November Council meeting. Following a HLC team member suggestion, council members agreed to participate in a review of the general education assessment process. Council members suggested holding a joint meeting with the General Education Advisory Council to review this process used to assess and improve students' achievement of general education learning outcomes.

Council members discussed information about a proposed HLC Institute on Assessment of Student Learning and related questionnaire that was sent to Dr. Strathe from the HLC to determine OSU's interest in the Institute. The Institute is scheduled to begin in 2006 with the first group of participants to be included by invitation only during Spring 2006.

The Council indicated that advantages of participation would include a stronger relationship with HLC, gaining ideas from other institutions about various assessment activities, and increased visibility of the OSU assessment program. Disadvantages include a substantial time commitment for participation and some concerns about the value provided relative to cost of participation. Council comments will be provided to Dr. Strathe for her use in developing a response to HLC.

Eight academic programs have submitted a supplemental request for program outcomes assessment funds for FY06. Each request was reviewed with the Council, and general agreement was reached on the level of funding to be provided to each. Bowers plans to personally visit with each of the programs about their request and to provide a response.

Bowers asked Council members for ratings and comments from their review of program outcomes assessment materials distributed at the previous meeting. After all reviews are completed, responses will be prepared and distributed to programs by mid – January. Materials for remaining programs to be reviewed were distributed; ratings and comments should be sent to the Assessment office or brought to the November meeting of the Council. It was suggested that the evaluation form that Council members use during this review should be sent to programs to help them with developing their plan and reports. This form will be included with the response in January.

Council briefly discussed the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey. OSU has participated in this national survey for many years, most recently in Fall 2004. OSU moved to an alternate year administration schedule a few years ago, so the next scheduled survey is Fall 2006. Bowers asked the Council for their comments regarding the value of the survey in improving student learning or the student experience at OSU. The cost of purchasing the survey is not great, but it takes a significant amount of staff time to collect the data and prepare the report of results. Comments indicated the results of the survey seem to be most useful as an indicator of students' needs as new freshmen. Bowers will contact Student Affairs to determine if they are interested in administering the survey.

Council members were reminded that academic units have been asked to submit program, department or college-level questions to be included in the Survey of Alumni of Undergraduate Programs by December 10.

Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Brenda Brown.