

University Assessment Council

Minutes

Friday, February 9, 2007

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

211 Student Union (Oklahoma Room)

Present: Bowers, Comer, Damron, Gates, Haseley, Hawkins, Ivy, Kennedy, Lage, Mowen, Ownbey, Payton, Paustenbaugh, Thompson, Wilber, and guest Katye Perry (for Davis)

Absent: Davis, Hyle, Martin

Provost Marlene Strathe provided an update on the Presidential Advisory Committee for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC). As stated on their website, "AASCU and NASULGC are engaged in a joint effort to develop a voluntary system of accountability that addresses the new concerns about learning outcomes and comparability of information. Over the course of the next year, AASCU and NASULGC, with funding assistance from The Lumina Foundation for Education, will engage their members in the development of such a system with the intent that the system will be widely adopted." Dr. Strathe indicated that the group has a strong commitment to 'value-added' assessments, and will focus on assessment of three learning outcomes to be reported publicly: critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and written communication. Dr. Strathe is a member of the Core Educational Outcomes Task Force, one of several task forces that will report their findings to the committee before August, 2007.

In anticipation of participation in the Voluntary System of Accountability, Dr. Strathe has asked that OSU participate in the Collegiate Learning Assessment in the 2007-08 academic year. Bowers will convene a meeting with representation of all undergraduate colleges to plan for participation. The group will decide on sample size and method, student incentives for participation, and other implementation decisions.

Greg Wilber, Chair of the General Education Assessment Committee, provided a report of the results of the 2006 Assessment. Based on these results, the committee recommended that this Council consider the following actions:

- additional action for improving students' writing skills,
- requiring general education designated courses to participate in assessment, in order to obtain a more systematic collection of samples of student work for assessment portfolios, and
- modifying the assessment process to more systematically include students who transfer courses (with general education credit attached) to OSU.

The complete recommendations of the committee are attached to these minutes. Gates and other members of the Council recommended that no further action on writing in general education courses be taken until the committee can collect sufficient data to evaluate the impact of the increased writing requirements in general education designated courses. The committee will facilitate a joint meeting with Assessment Council and the General Education Advisory Council to further develop faculty interpretation of assessment results and recommendations for action. To assist with that interpretation and plan for action, the committee asked Council members to provide written comments about assessment results and the assessment process; a copy of the form is attached to these minutes.

Bowers asked council members to assist with artifact collection for the three portfolios that will be included in general education assessment in Summer 2007: 1) science problem-solving, 2) critical thinking skills, and 3) knowledge, skills and attitudes regarding diversity.

Bowers reported that Jim Purcell, Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning and Analysis for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, will present a session on assessment at the OKAIRP meeting on March 29. Bowers indicated that Purcell has asked for input from institutions regarding the state system requirements for conducting and reporting learning outcomes assessment.

The following activities were announced:

UAT will sponsor a faculty development session, "Choosing a Published Instrument to Assess Student Learning," MAGNA Online Seminar, on February 14, in the ITLE Seminar Room.

John Gelder, Patricia Bell and Pam Bowers will present a session at the 2007 Higher Learning Commission Annual Meeting in Chicago, "Leading for Diversity: Providing a Framework for Diversity as a Learning Goal."

University Assessment and Testing will hold an Open House in their new facility on Wednesday, February 28, 3:00-5:00 p.m.