

University Assessment Council

Minutes

Friday, September 7, 2007
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
211 Student Union (Oklahoma Room)

Present: Bowers, Comer, Damron, Gates, Haseley, Hawkins, Kennedy, Lacy, Leising, Mowen, Ownbey, Payton, Katye Perry (for Bob Davis), Paustenbaugh, Rohrs, Thompson, Weir, Wilber

The statement of mission, vision and goals of the Assessment Council was distributed.

Mowen asked if it were required by policy that students be included as members of the Council, as is the case with the technology fee. Gates indicated that since this was an OSRHE mandated fee, it was not required to have students as members. Bowers stated that UAT does make efforts to inform students about assessment.

The General Education Assessment Committee assessed institutional portfolios for critical thinking, science and diversity learning goals this summer. The faculty who conducted the assessments will present sessions this Fall to discuss results, process, and identification and/or development of assignments. Through Instruction Council, colleges have been asked to identify three lower division and three upper division courses from which artifacts can be selected for writing, critical thinking, and diversity for the Summer 2008 assessment.

Plans are in place to participate in the Collegiate Learning Assessment this year. A random sample, stratified by college, of 100 freshmen in the Fall and 100 seniors in the Spring will be selected for participation. Students will be paid \$30 each to participate, and the top ten scorers will receive \$100. Testing will be conducted Oct 2-13 in the Testing Center.

College coordinators for program outcomes assessment have been identified. The goal is to improve the effectiveness of learning outcomes assessment as a program improvement mechanism by incorporating it into the college improvement structure. Each college will receive \$10,000 to support the role; due to the large number and diversity of programs in the college, A&S will receive \$20,000. College coordinators will annually provide written feedback on outcomes assessment to programs, and a progress report to the Dean of the college. Coordinators will also be asked to provide guidance on the best use of program outcomes assessment funds for the college.

Responses to assessment budget requests for FY08 have been mailed to programs, and approved funds are being transferred. Since the budget request process occurs in the summer, when the Council is not meeting, Bowers makes the funding recommendations based on guidelines developed by the Council, and interpretation of the guidelines as discussed with the Council. Recommendations are approved by the Provost's Office before funds are transferred. Programs do not keep funds that are not spent in the previous year, and must repay funds spent for unapproved expenses. Bowers explained the basis of consideration for funding decisions, and reviewed a list of approved and unapproved expenses. She will provide this list, and the overall Assessment budget, to Council members for their review.

This Fall, the Council will review program outcomes assessment for those programs that will participate in Academic Program Review in Spring 2009. Feedback developed from these Assessment Council reviews will be provided to the programs in January. Documents for review will be provided at the next meeting (Oct 12).

The role of assessment in the Academic Program Review process was discussed. On behalf of the Council, Bowers reviews APR documents for content regarding assessment of student learning, and participates in the review meeting chaired by the Provost and attended by the Dean of Graduate College, the Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Education and the Dean, Department Head, and Assessment Coordinator of the programs being reviewed. The final version of the university recommendations to the OSRHE about the program are developed at this meeting.

In October, Bowers will participate in a meeting with department heads and assessment coordinators of those programs that will participate in APR this Spring (2008), to provide instructions and answer questions about the preparation of the APR document. The meeting is chaired by Gail Gates, and IRIM representatives provide data needed for the APR document at this meeting.

Since the Bureau for Social Research is closing, UAT staff are considering options for conducting annual alumni surveys. Staff members are investigating a web-based survey that would use email addresses from the Alumni Association and OSU Foundation email database.

The OSRHE have asked that certification / licensure pass rates be included in the annual institutional assessment report. Bowers has asked Instruction Council to collect this information.

Members of the Council were provided with information about the IUPUI Assessment Institute in Indianapolis on November 4-6; the UAT office will provide financial support for Council members who attend.

Hand out Materials:

Mission, vision and goals of the Assessment Council

Highlights of Alumni Survey of Graduate Programs 2007

Highlights of Alumni Survey of Graduate Programs 2001-2007

Information about the IUPUI Assessment Institute – November 4-6 – Indianapolis