

University Assessment Council

Minutes

Friday, April 4, 2008
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
211 Student Union (Oklahoma Room)

Present: Bowers, Comer, Damron, Davis, Gates, Hawkins, Lacy, Leising, Mowen, Ownbey, Payton, Rohrs, Thompson, Weir, Wilber

Absent: Haseley, Kennedy, Paustenbaugh

General Education Assessment Review Meeting

Minutes from the 3-7-08 joint meeting of Assessment Council, General Education Advisory Council and General Education Assessment Committee were distributed. No corrections were requested.

As recommended at the 3-7 meeting, IRIM has been asked to provide data about enrollment in general education courses (majors, classifications) to help target classes for collecting of artifacts for assessment.

Bowers and Gates met with Provost Strathe to discuss the recommendations of the group. Dr. Strathe indicated strong support for more systematic involvement in assessment, and plans to meet with Dean's Council and the Executive Committee of each college to discuss the need for incorporating assessment into operations at the college and department level. Strathe indicated that she will convey to these groups that financial resources will be more closely connected to effective assessment in the future.

Colleges will be asked to provide a systematic response to requests for participation in general education assessment by identifying courses that can provide assignments on writing, critical thinking, diversity, and other general education learning goals. Courses identified for participation in general education assessment will not be limited to those with a general education designation. General education at OSU describes both a specific set of courses from which students must make selections to complete certain requirements, as well as a description of broad competencies that a graduate of OSU is expected to be able to demonstrate.

The question was raised about whether or not general education assessment might provide college-specific results regarding student performance. It was also noted that many programs, and some colleges, conduct assessments of students' writing separately from the general education assessment. ; The general education assessment committee will be asked to consider ways to consolidate, or collaborate more closely, on these efforts. When more systematic participation is accomplished, a smaller number of artifacts from a larger number of classes could be included in each portfolio, which would provide results that are more representative.

It was suggested that the Academic Program Review process include each program's analysis of how their program contributes to students' achievement of the institutional general education learning goals.

The suggested role for involvement in New Faculty Orientation is that the Director of University Assessment, or a representative of this Council, be physically present at the session. The handout describing faculty roles in assessment should be also provided to all new faculty.

The continuing effort to align assessment for institutional purposes and for program accreditation purposes should be an ongoing topic for college coordinators and the UAT office.

The idea of providing incentives for achievements in assessment will be added to the agenda for an assessment retreat this summer.

It was suggested that we consider identifying a more descriptive name to describe our efforts, to replace "assessment," such as "continuous improvement."

Annual Reports and FY09 Budget Requests

2007-08 Annual Reports and FY09 Budget Requests are due June 6. Funds from FY08 allocations will not automatically be carried forward in program assessment accounts. Bowers will evaluate funding requests and develop recommendations following guidelines approved by the Council.

Results of CLA Freshman Testing

Results of freshman participation in the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) indicate that OSU freshmen performed at the "expected" level. The final report of freshman and senior testing will be provided by CLA this summer. These results will be posted on the OSU College Portrait website, as part of the Voluntary System of Accountability.

Plans for NSSE in 2009

As planned, OSU will participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) in 2009. There is interest in expanding the sample size, or possibly including all freshmen and seniors in the invitation to complete the survey. It was suggested that colleges be asked to describe how their units will use NSSE results for improvement. The UAT office will provide more specific information about cost of participation, over-sampling, and possibility of tracking participation (for purpose of obtaining reasonably representative sample for all colleges).

Updates:

- Results of the Alumni Survey of Undergraduate Programs (2002 and 2006 graduates) will be reported in June 2008. UAT will plan to conduct future surveys earlier in the semester, so that reports of results can be provided to programs before annual assessment reports are due.
- Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey is being conducted online this semester; results will be reported this Summer.
- General Education Assessment Faculty Workshops on topics of diversity, critical thinking, and science were better attended than in past years.
- ABET Webinars were well attended; about 90 faculty attended three sessions.

University-wide projects planned for 2008-09:

- Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey 2008. CIRP is being offered as an online survey for the first time this year. The group discussed the merits of online vs. paper administration, including the possibility of reduced participation if not offered in "captive audience" setting of freshman orientation class and the value to faculty of regaining the hour (needed to give the survey) for instruction purposes. Some students provide a parent's email address as their primary contact address; it was noted that parents may object to the contents of the survey. It is not clear if students' online participation could be tracked; UAT staff will determine this.
- Alumni Survey of Graduate Programs (2003 and 2007 graduates) will be conducted in Spring 2009, using combined web and telephone format.
- NSSE will be conducted in Spring 2009.

Announcements:

- April 9, Noon-1:30, 126 ITLE, Online Video Seminar: "Assessment for Improvement vs. Assessment for Accountability," with Trudy Banta (lunch for registered participants)
- Higher Learning Commission Annual Meeting, April 12-15
 - o Wilber & Bowers presenting session on general education assessment
- AIR Forum (Association for Institutional Research national annual conference) – May
 - o Comer, Griffin & Bowers presenting pre-conference workshop on institutional portfolio general education assessment method
- International Assessment and Retention Conference – June
 - o Comer & Bowers presenting pre-conference workshop on institutional portfolio general education assessment method

Hand out Materials:

- Minutes from 3-7-07 joint meeting of Assessment Council, General Education Advisory Council and General Education Assessment Committee
- 2005 OSU NSSE Benchmark scores and items that comprise benchmarks
- CLA Freshman Results Report
- Trudy Banta Seminar Flyer
- CLA in the Classroom Program Overview