

University Assessment Council

Minutes

Friday, February 8, 2008

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

211 Student Union (Oklahoma Room)

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

Absent: Lacy, Kennedy, Ownbey

Minutes from the 12-7-07 meeting were distributed. No corrections were requested.

Greg Wilber, chair of the General Education Committee, discussed the 2007 General Education Assessment Report. The committee assessed portfolios for three learning goals: critical thinking, science problem-solving, and diversity.

Wilber said that the assessment committee would like to have a more formal structure for follow-through on recommendations they make regarding assessment results. The difficulty in obtaining a reasonably representative sample of student work from across the institution for the portfolios is also a concern of the committee.

Council members discussed the planning systems in place at the program, department, college and institutional levels for helping students achieve institutional learning goals. Some members indicated that, within their colleges, plans are made at the program level for assuring that students have opportunity to learn and practice desired knowledge and skills, with the college “driving” that process. In others, it seems to be more of a college-level process. After much discussion, council members agreed that a systematic approach is needed to assure that programs are providing opportunities for students to work toward achievement of the learning goals, and to provide samples of student work for assessment that, collectively, are reasonably representative of the institution’s population.

It was agreed that a request for action will be drafted for further input, with the intention of submitting the request to Instruction Council. Instruction Council will be asked to respond in writing to the request. The intention of the request is to obtain, from each college, a description of how units within the college assure that these learning opportunities are provided and identification of classes that will provide samples of student work for the assessment of each portfolio. The draft request will be sent to Council members for their consideration, with the intention of approving a final draft of the request at the March 7 meeting.

Council members discussed the need to state benchmark scores for each of the general education learning outcomes. These scores would indicate the point at which immediate action is required to improve students’ achievement. Council members seemed to agree that we should always be working toward helping all students achieve the highest level of achievement, but that it may be helpful to identify these “action-needed” scores. Members were asked to consider what they and their college colleagues would consider acceptable benchmarks for their graduates. At the meeting on March 7, we will establish these benchmark scores (minimum average scores and minimum percentages of students who should achieve at that level).

The following updates were provided:

- The 2006-07 Institutional Assessment Report has been requested by the OSRHE, and will be submitted next week.
- Feedback documents to programs from Fall Assessment Council Reviews of program outcomes assessment have been completed, and will be sent to programs within the next two weeks.

- Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) testing of a random sample of senior students is underway.
- CLA testing of freshmen, sophomores, and junior volunteers for a pilot study is underway.
- Program Outcomes Assessment Database is complete and will be shared with college assessment coordinators within the next two weeks.
- 2008 Survey of Alumni of Undergraduate Programs is underway.
- Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey will be completed this semester.

The following activities were announced:

- General Education Assessment – Faculty workshops
 - o February 22 Noon-2:00 Diversity Suite 1600, Student Union
 - o February 29 Noon-2:00 Critical Thinking 211 Student Union
 - o March 28 Noon-2:00 Science ITLE Seminar room
- UAT will sponsor ABET Webinars:
 - o Feb. 27, Defining Program Outcome – 1:-2:30, 103 ATRC
 - o Mar. 20, Developing Rubrics – 1:00-2:30, 103 ATRC
- Higher Learning Commission Annual Meeting, April 12-15, Greg Wilber and Pam Bowers will present a session on “General Education Assessment Using Institutional Portfolios.”
- Spring Assessment Council meetings
 - o March 7(joint meeting with GEAC and gen. ed. assessment committee)
 - o April 4