

## **University Assessment Council Minutes**

Friday, November 7, 2008  
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.  
250 Student Union (Oklahoma Room)

Present: Bowers, Comer, Damron, Davis, Edwards, Gates, Haseley, Leising, Ownbey, Ray, Rohrs, Thompson, Wilber.

Absent: Hawkins, Lacy, Mowen, Payton, Paustenbaugh, Swinney

Minutes from October 3, 2008 meeting were reviewed; minutes will be corrected to show that Dr. Strathe's example of providing funding for GIS equipment was in reference to her experience at another institution.

Members who have completed their reviews of program outcomes assessment submitted their ratings and comments. These will be provided to college assessment coordinators for inclusion in their feedback statements to programs. Feedback for programs will be submitted to the UAT office by December 1, so that Dr. Gates office can send it to departments in January.

The annual assessment report has been requested by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and is due Dec. 5. As in past years, information on certification and licensure testing has been requested from academic programs, to be included in the report.

Gates reported that the General Education Advisory Council (GEAC) reviewed the non-designated general education courses HIST 1103, 1483, 1493 and POLS 1113 in an October meeting. Members voted to affirm continuation of the above general education courses, effective Fall 2008. Members recommended that the History department develop common course objectives for HIST 1103. The GEAC will review the English composition courses in their next meeting.

Gates reported that applications have been received for the Interim Director of University Assessment and Testing position vacancy; an interim director will be named in November. A national search for a director will be conducted in the Spring semester; Shiretta Ownbey has agreed to chair the search committee.

Members discussed the presentations conducted on campus this week by Dr. Lynn Priddy, Director of Education and Training for the Higher Learning Commission. Participants seemed to find her presentation very informative and helpful, but perhaps somewhat overwhelming to those who are relatively new to assessment. An appreciation was expressed for Priddy's acknowledgment that the HLC has not been completely correct on the direction regional accreditation has taken in the past. Points made in the discussion include: recognition of the value of "mapping" paths to learning outcomes; encouragement for increasing creativity in methods (perhaps grants for creative projects and rewarding success); and recognition of connections between the scholarship of teaching and learning and assessment. HLC is attempting to increase the emphasis on improving student learning and de-emphasize collection of assessment data.

Ray presented an update on the Survey of Alumni of Graduate Programs and the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). Both will be conducted in the Spring semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.