

University Assessment Steering Committee (UASC)

<http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/uasc.html>

Summary Notes #81

Monday, September 26, 2011

2 p.m.

Room 3150, Schneider Hall

Learner-centered. Discovery-driven. Globally engaged.

Attending: Meredith Atchison (GSAC), Patrick Benton (CoA), Sue Brodasky (OIT), Kevin Corder (CAS), Katharine Cummings (CoEHD), Laura Darrah (RHL), Betty Dennis (EUP), Brad Dennis (LIB), Robert Dlouhy (IEC), Eileen Evans (IE), Julie Evans (CFA), Marianne Di Pierro (TGC), Marcia Fetters (COGE), Andrew Kline (CEAS), Kevin Knutson (ADV), Marilyn Kritzman (AAUP), Anne Lundquist (DOSA), Stephen Malcolm (CAS), Susan Oole (LHC), David Reinhold (ASUGS), Scott Slawinski (CAS), Cathe Springsteen (IE), Christina Stamper (HCoB), Karen Stokes Chapo (AIA), Lindsay Stone (WSA), Donna Weinreich (CHHS)

Acceptance of the Agenda

Cummings moved to approve the agenda, supported by Dennis (EUP). All approved.

Acceptance of UASC Summary Notes #80

Slawinski requested correction of grammatical errors. Fetters moved to approve summary notes #80 from May 16 with revisions, supported by Stokes Chapo. All approved.

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Update

Evans reported that HLC is in the process of revising its criteria, based on the 2013 HEOA. The second draft (beta version) of the proposed criteria is being reviewed with the third draft expected to be released for comment during November 2011. The final criteria will be in place in March 2012. Following a year of training, the criteria become effective January 2013. Evans handed out bookmarks and highlighted copies of the beta version to assist members in comparing the proposed criteria against the original. New language shows increased attention to program accreditation, increased emphasis on systematic planning and improvement, and increased emphasis on integrity. Evans discussed the Open Pathways timeline and described the two “touches” HLC will make with WMU during the process. She added that there will be a great deal more reporting than was done in the past, and that it will be uploaded as we go. Evans reported that institutions must explicitly address and meet each subcomponent, core component, and criteria with evidence. Institutions must meet all subcomponents to meet the core component; must meet all core components to meet the criteria; and, must meet all criteria to be accredited. Evans commented that proposed criteria 4.B, components 1 through 4, is at the heart of UASC, as it requires attention to program-level outcomes and patterns of evidence that we see through assessment.

Reinhold commented that the old criteria required that the institution’s goals “make effective assessment possible.” Now, 4.B. says “processes of assessment are in effect.” He added that UASC and COGE should discuss this change in scope and duties during the academic year as HLC will expect WMU to have data, have used it to make changes, and have assessed those changes. Reinhold added that

WMU needs to get student organizations involved in the conversation of improving student learning outcomes. Malcolm commented that it would be more realistic to improve the delivery of student learning, not the outcomes. He added that improvement can't go on forever because of budget constraints. Evans responded that NCAA does not accept budget constraints as a reason for institutions not improving. Reinhold added that there are plenty of examples of institutions doing more with less, and that WMU needs to tap more into available resources like ACU.

Introduction of New Members

Members took turns introducing themselves and what area they represent.

Orientation

Reinhold introduced the UASC Purpose, Activities, and Guidelines document, which was approved by the committee in May 2011. UASC's updated purpose is to Recognize, Inform, Support, and Educate the university community regarding the assessment of student learning. UASC promotes RISE through grants and awards, the Assessment in Action Day conference, web publication of resources (see <http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment>), iWebfolio and TracDat training, and Traveling Assessment Consultation (TAC) teams.

Stokes Chapo covered assessment resources at WMU, and informed members that the website will change in the next several months. She presented a walk-through of the Resources and Assistance webpage, and discussed the assessment calendar on the main webpage, and the Assessment in Action (AIA) Day conference page. In addition, she offered to provide TracDat access to Mary Allen's rubrics from last year's AIA Day. Although the rubrics cannot be published on WMU's website, access is available to the university community upon request. Stokes Chapo gave a brief overview of the TAC teams and expressed a hope to have more people involved. She handed members information on upcoming TracDat help sessions, and asked members to contact her with their suggestions. Stokes Chapo informed members that she is looking into consortial groups in Michigan, and is also looking into housing assessment endeavors through ScholarWorks. Reinhold added that he is not aware of any consortial groups in Michigan – the closest are groups like ACU. Malcolm commented that it would be good for WMU to start one.

Dennis (LIB) discussed the history of UASC and challenges of the Consultation and Review Teams (CARTs). CARTs were formerly known as Review and Consultation Teams (RACTs). However, members changed the name during 2010-11 to reflect that consultation occurs prior to review. Members were provided with a listing of the 2011-12 CART assignments. Dennis (LIB) encouraged CART chairs to work with their planning groups to attend TracDat sessions and to put their plans into TracDat. He asked chairs to keep in continuous contact with their planning groups and to offer assistance as needed. Reinhold will share exemplary items and plans as requested. Dennis (LIB) also informed members that they will be asked to volunteer for ad hoc subcommittees (i.e., award review, grant review), as they are determined throughout the year.

Update from Consultation and Review Team (CART) Chairs

Darrah reported that CART 1 received assessment plans for University Libraries (LIB) and Lee Honors College (LHC) Advising. However, College of Health and Human Services Advising has been unresponsive.

Cummings reported that CART 2 received the assessment plan from Health Promotion and Education (HPE), and will pass it along. Assessment plans for Residence Hall Life (RHL) and Student Activities and Leadership Programs (SALP) are progressing.

Benton reported that CART 3 received assessment plans from First-Year Experience (FYE) and the Center for Academic Success Programs (CASP) Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs. He added that, although the CART hasn't met yet, he met with Randy Ott (CASP) and will update UASC as additional plans are submitted.

Dennis (LIB) reported that CART 4 received assessment plans from the advising offices of Haworth College of Business (HCoB) and the College of Aviation. The CART recommended revisions for both plans and are awaiting resubmission. He added that College of Education and Human Development (CoEHD) Advising submitted their plan in TracDat. Members will review the plan as soon as they receive access.

Reinhold reported that College of Fine Arts (CFA) Advising is constructing their assessment plan in TracDat. CART 5 members will review the plan as soon as they receive access. He added that Extended University Programs' (EUP) plan is progressing. However, he has little contact from Intercollegiate Athletic Program (IAP) Advising.

Malcolm reported that CART 6 has received no information from either College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) Advising or the Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE). He added that he is contacting Dean McCloud (HIGE). Stokes Chapo reported that HIGE intends to do their plan in TracDat and will contact Malcolm when completed.

Results from the 2010 Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) Exam

Reinhold handed out copies of the 2010 CLA results to members, stating that WMU has completed its fourth year of participation. He added that, as evidence for the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) College Portrait, WMU's first two years of data have been included on the website. Participation in the CLA Exam provides a direct assessment of student learning. WMU has a license to give the exam to 100 first-year students during fall and 100 graduating seniors during the following spring. Responses from first-year students provide a baseline, while responses from seniors measure added value.

Reinhold reported that WMU's scores have been consistently better than the national average, ranking in the top two-thirds. He added that, although he has not yet averaged the data over the previous three years to determine added-value or precision estimates, he does have the ability to separate the data by college. Reinhold asked members to send him suggestions for how to improve the exam, including what questions members may wish to add, and added that he hopes to get more of this type of information to bring to UASC in the future.

Reinhold reported that WMU is doing another voluntary pilot for general education with new a rubric, trying to minimize efforts and maximize results. He hopes to bring data to UASC in the spring. Reinhold added that WMU needs a clear plan on the use and dissemination of data into assessment.

Clarification of the Process for Awarding the 2011-12 Graduate Student Assessment Grant (GSAG)

Di Pierro passed out the Graduate College's proposal for handling the GSAG process for this academic year. She also gave a recap of last year's process and the problems that occurred. Di Pierro asked members for a volunteer to replace Jones on the GSAG selection committee and discussed who will represent the Graduate College, stating that she will remain as the liaison between the Graduate College and UASC. Due to time constraints, members agreed that further discussion on this topic will be held at the October meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of UASC will be held on Monday, October 24, 2011 at 2 p.m. in 3150 Schneider Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.58 p.m. (Dennis (EUP)/Darrah).

Respectfully submitted, Cathe Springsteen.