

**UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Notes for Meeting, 1:00 – 3:00PM, November 13, 2001**

Present: Linda Delene (Committee Chair, Vice Provost, Academic Planning and Assessment), Ariel Anderson (Teaching, Learning, and Leadership), Gus Breymann (Director, DCE Lansing Campus), Mozhdeh Bruss (Family and Consumer Services), Raymond E. Cain, Jr. (Aviation Sciences), Katharine Cummings Teaching, learning and Leadership), Beth denHartigh (Disabled Student Services), Eileen Evans (The Graduate College), George Fierro (College of Aviation), Joyce Kubiski (Art), Linda LeBlanc (Psychology), Lynn Lee (Trio Programs), Stephen Malcolm (Biological Sciences), Bettina Meyer (University Libraries), Hossein Mousavinezhad (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Robert Peters (School of Public Affairs and Administration), Galen Rike (Waldo Library), Laura LaTulippe for Darryl Salisbury (CELCIS), Daniel Stauffer (Health, Physical Education and Recreation), Lynn Kelly Albertson for Diane Swartz (Division of Student Affairs), Edmund Tsang (College of Engineering and Applied Sciences), Elton Weintz (History), Robert Wertkin (Social Work). Absent: Damodar Golhar (Haworth College of Business), Martha Warfield (Division of Multicultural Affairs).

Linda Delene called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to this first meeting of the University Assessment Committee. Fred Dobney sent his regrets about missing this first committee meeting as he was out of town on business. After introductions were made, the committee's charge and list of preliminary tasks was reviewed. It was pointed out that an enormous amount of assessment is currently already done throughout the University, although not reported in any systematic, institutional fashion. Area of greatest need for new assessment initiative is in area of general education. It is important to view assessment as the "scholarship of program improvement" and that many colleagues already engage in such activities on a regular basis. Additionally, the recommended revised mission statement for WMU includes a goal with reference to assessment and related improvement initiatives, which also fosters the development of assessment policies and plans at the University. Moreover, The Higher Learning Commission (North Central) will revisit WMU in 2005 to examine our progress in terms of strategic planning and assessment programs.

In early discussions, a few committee members stated that some faculty perceive assessment to be another "burden" with little reward. In response to the question about release time for assessment, Linda indicated that it was most unlikely that release time could be given since departments and colleges have such limited faculty resources. To facilitate faculty interest and support, a small number of mini-grants (\$1,000 -- \$2,000) will be made (Fall of 2002) for faculty assessment initiatives that can serve as models. Committee members who attended the assessment conference in Indianapolis reported that an enormous amount of information and expertise is available. Further, there is a need to convey how assessment results will be used to make a positive difference. There are many exciting and knowledgeable individuals available to assist WMU with development of its assessment program. Committee colleagues were asked to consider another assessment conference in Chicago (March 2002) that has a registration deadline of January 18, 2002. It was agreed that Linda would ask the deans/associate deans about accreditation program reviews that already require assessment activities. Further, in January the committee will examine who could be invited to campus to help set a positive tone about assessment and to share their expertise. Additionally, the committee will have initial discussions about how to incorporate assessment's role into the university reward stream, including for promotion, tenure and merit decisions vis-à-vis the collective bargaining environment at WMU.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00PM. Linda Walker will contact committee members to arrange for the next meeting in January 2002.