

UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

Summary Note for Meeting #24: September 22, 2004

Members Attending: Patrick Benton (Aviation), Gary Bigelow (Spanish), Sandy Blanchard (Advising), Sue Brodasky (OIE), Susan Caulfield (COGE), Kathy Cummings (EDUC), Josephine Davis (EDUC & International), Brad Dennis (LIB), Marianne DiPierro (Grad College), Meg Dupuis (Arts & Sciences), Eileen Evans (OIE), Bruce Ferrin (HCOB), Deb Newson (EUP), Shavonne Petts (WSA), Dave Reinhold (USC), Ed Roth (Fine Arts), Bob Wertkin (HHS & chair).

Wertkin called the meeting to order and welcomed members. Eileen Evans, Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness was introduced. Summary Note #22 was accepted (Cummings/Dupuis).

Wertkin provided summarized actions taken last year. Plans from Blindness & Low Vision and the MBA program were tabled last year; Mathematics was returned for major revisions; and a few issues remain with plans from Fine Arts. Wertkin will distribute an updated summary of actions at the next UASC meeting. New RACT teams will be formed for this year.

Dennis presented the RACT recommendation to approve the plan from the MBA program. The committee voted to accept that recommendation (Dennis/Cummings).

Evans provided a review of the relationship between the UASC and the various SIS projects, indicating that the SIS projects should provide the tools to carry out the policies and plans from the UASC. The UASC also is responsible for reporting to the academic community regarding assessment efforts across the campus.

Cummings presented an overview of the TracDat system, one of the components of the SIS implementation. TracDat will support the continued development of assessment plans and will serve as a tool for documenting the implementation of the assessment plans within the departments. Sessions to introduce TracDat and its application to assessment will be held on October 13 and 14. UASC members who wish to attend a session (2-3 hours) should contact Michele.McLaughlin@wmich.edu (7-3869).

Committee members asked about a policy/process for making changes to the approved assessment plans. Questions were also raised concerning the level of transparency appropriate for assessment results. Draft policies for both issues will be considered at the October meeting.

Evans stated that assessment is an institutional priority. She reminded the committee that the goals of assessment include shared responsibility, institutional support, development of an institutional culture of assessment, and the use of assessment for program improvement. NCA will be making a focused visit to WMU on November 7 & 8, 2005. They will be looking for evidence of our progress in planning and assessment. An additional goal for university assessment will be to use TracDat to support assessment planning and implementation.

Petts asked about student involvement in the assessment processes and committees within departments and colleges. She indicated that students may be unaware of assessment on campus. The issue of assessment and international programs was raised. Questions about the role of UASC in the assessment of international programs were discussed. Evans reminded the committee about the upcoming National Assessment Institute. Anyone interested in attending the Institute should contact her.

The next UASC meeting is November 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 3150 Schneider Hall.