

University Assessment Steering Committee Summary Note #25: November 10, 2004

Attending: Josephine Barry-Davis (International Studies), Patrick Benton (Aviation), Gary Bigelow (Spanish), Sandy Blanchard (Advising), Sue Brodasky (Institutional Effectiveness), Susan Caulfield (COGE), Kathy Cummings (EDUC), Brad Dennis (Libraries), Marianne DiPierro (Grad College), Meg Dupuis (A&S), Eileen Evans (Institutional Effectiveness), Bruce Ferrin (HCOB), Linda Ickes (DOSA), Jim Leja (HHS), Deb Newson (EUP), Peter Parker (CEAS), Shavonne Petts (WSA), Dave Reinhold (USC), Ed Roth (Fine Arts), Bob Wertkin (HHS & Chair).
Absent: Judah Ari-Gur, Beth Denhartigh, James Kiddle.

Wertkin called the meeting to order and asked for approval of Summary Note # 24. A motion to approve was passed (Ferrin/Benton). RACT assignments for 2004-2005 were distributed. Wertkin noted that our student representative was not assigned to a RACT to avoid potential sensitivities, for which Petts expressed gratitude.

Updates on assessment plan approvals were provided. Roth reported that the revised plan from Art has not been received by the RACT. The plan for the MFA in Performing Arts Administration was tabled until the UASC chair communicates with the Dean of Fine Arts concerning the need for a clearly defined contact person for this program. The plan from Dance was also tabled until they have identified a chair for their assessment committee. The plan from Blindness and Low Vision Studies was tabled until the RACT reviews the plan. Dennis recommended approval for the plan for the Department of Accountancy. The plan was approved (Dennis/Caulfield). The plan from the School of Music was also approved (Dennis/Dupuis). Wertkin summarized the other plans that have not been approved. Reinhold will work with the Math department assessment committee to revise their plan for resubmission. Questions remain about the final status of the plan from Public Administration. The plan from Medieval Studies has been submitted in paper form and needs to be provided electronically.

Wertkin presented a draft of a policy on Assessment Data Transparency. Discussion ensued. The policy was approved (Cummings/Dennis) as follows:

“The university differentiates between institutional level data and departmental level data. Institutional level data refer to data and findings from initiatives that do not identify or focus on individual academic units. One example would be the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). Another example is data compiled about undergraduate, graduate, or international students as a panel or cohort.”

“Each department determines the type and nature of data that can be shared outside of the department. However, college deans can request department-level data as appropriate. As the governing authority for all academic units, the Provost can request data from colleges in order to fulfill the university’s obligations. In order to protect confidentiality and privacy, no individual data (e.g. individual students, faculty, or class) will be made available outside the department.”

Wertkin distributed a draft of a policy concerning the role of the UASC and the lifecycle of assessment plans. Discussion ensued. The policy was tabled for further revision based on the committee’s suggestions.

Evans reported on the assessment conference at IUPUI and encouraged members of the UASC to plan to attend next year. Evans will share the call for papers when it becomes available. She also distributed announcements about several other assessment-related opportunities, including a teleconference on the first-year experience and a conference in North Carolina in April.

Cummings distributed samples of the assessment plan and assessment impact reports generated through TracDat. Committee members are encouraged to participate in training sessions for the use of TracDat. Cummings offered to provide training to individuals or small groups.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.