

University Assessment Steering Committee
Summary Note #29
Meeting April 18, 2005

Attending: Josephine Barry-Davis (International Studies), Patrick Benton (Aviation), Sue Brodasky (Institutional Effectiveness), Susan Caulfield (COGE), Kathy Cummings (EDUC), Brad Dennis (Libraries), Marianne DiPierro (Grad College), Eileen Evans (Institutional Effectiveness), Bruce Ferrin (HCOB), Linda Ickes (DOSA), Jim Leja (HHS), Linda Lumley (DOSA), Deb Newson (EUP), Dave Reinhold (USC), Zo Snyder (), Bob Wertkin (HHS & Chair).

Guests: Maira Bunza & Suzie Nagel

Absent: Ari-Gur, Bigelow, Blanchard, Denhartigh, Kiddle, Parker, Petts, Roth.

Wertkin called the meeting to order and asked for approval of Summary Note # 28. A motion to approve was passed (Caulfield/Ferrin).

Wertkin introduced Zo Snyder, who will be replacing Sue Caulfield on the committee next year while Sue is on sabbatical. He also introduced two guests: Maira Bunza and Suzie Nagel, who attended the North Carolina State Assessment Conference.

An outline of the assessment section of the report for the Higher Learning Commission was distributed and discussed.

Updates on assessment plans:

- Jim Leja, who will serve as department chair next year, will review the plan from Blindness & Low Vision Studies. The RACT will respond to the latest draft of the plan and send their responses to Leja as well.
- Reinhold reported on the plan from Public Administration and shared the RACT's recommendation for approval. The motion was passed to approve the plan with minor revisions (Ferrin/Caulfield). Medieval Studies and Math will continue to work with Reinhold to improve their plans. Cummings will set up a time to meet with the math faculty regarding the use of Tracdat.
- Dennis reported that the plan from Educational Studies continues to need work.

Barry-Davis noted that the committee had not commented on the role of international programs within the department plans. Wertkin indicated that there are several areas that may be addressed in future examinations of assessment plans, including both international studies and diversity.

Ickes, Bundza, and Evans discussed the North Carolina State Assessment Conference. Several "ah-ha" moments were cited, including the importance of measuring what is valued, the need to "calibrate rubrics," the role of assessment in overall institutional planning, and the ability to "personalize" assessment using technology.

Evans reported on several changes in UASC membership, with Suzie Nagel replacing Beth DenHardigh and Meg Dupuis returning to the committee. Evans also reported on the "Taking the Pulse" meetings and the Higher Learning Commission's focused visit.

Applications for the 2005-2006 Assessment Fellow grants have been received and are ready for review. The reviews will be complete by the May UASC meeting.

Evans thanked Bob Wertkin for his service to the committee throughout the past several years. Wertkin announced that Steve Malcolm had been nominated to chair the UASC. Malcolm was elected by acclamation (Caulfield/Dennis).

Wertkin closed the meeting with comments concerning the work accomplished by the committee and the need to continue the development of a “culture of assessment” at WMU. He offered two recommendations. First, the UASC should not become a Faculty Senate committee but should continue as a stand alone committee with broad membership and direct access to the Provost. He felt that maintaining this structure would prevent the politicalization or minimalization of the UASC. Second, he believes that the university will not continue to make significant progress on assessment without a dedicated “office of assessment” that is appropriately staffed.

The last two meetings of the academic year are on May 23 and June 20 from 2:00-4:00 in Room 3150 Schneider Hall.