

University Assessment Steering Committee  
Summary Note # 35  
Meeting Date January 23, 2006

Attending: Patrick Benton (Aviation, Interim Chair), Maira Bundza (Libraries), Clement Burns (Grad Studies Council), Kathy Cummings (EDUC), Kelly Daniels (GSAC), Betty Dennis (College Academic Advisors), Marianne DiPierro (Grad College), Eileen Evans (Institutional Effectiveness), Bruce Ferrin (HCOB), Lin Foulk (Fine Arts), Linda Ickes (DOSAs), Hossein Mousavinezhad (AAUP), Peter Parker (CEAS), Dave Reinhold (USC), Zoann Snyder (A&S), Tyler Watson (Sindecuse).

Absent: Ari-Gur, Barry-Davis, Brodasky, Dupuis, Johnson, Leja, Nagel, Newson

The meeting was called to order by Evans who introduced Betty Dennis as a new member of the committee. Evans also announced the resignation of Stephen Malcolm as chair of UASC in order to devote his attention to teaching and research. Evans and the committee thanked Malcolm for his leadership and especially his efforts during the HLC/NCA visit. Evans announced that Pat Benton has agreed to serve as interim chair of UASC for this semester until the regularly scheduled election at the end of Spring term.

Benton called for approval of Summary Note #34 (Watson/Ferrin). He called on Cummings to report the results of the subcommittee charged with developing questions for the committee's meeting with deans. After some confusion, Cummings indicated that the subcommittee had not met. A report from the subcommittee will be presented at the next UASC meeting. Meetings with deans will begin with the March UASC meeting. Two deans will be invited for each meeting. Benton will work with Evans to send invitations to the deans. Brodasky will coordinate the schedules.

Benton distributed a proposal for an Open Forum with faculty and department chairs who are interested in discussing assessment. Discussion followed. Topics of the discussion included the purpose for the proposed meetings, the structure for meetings, and the definition of assessment. Benton suggested that a brief (2-page maximum) definition of university assessment be developed and provided to faculty. Evans will take the lead on developing the definition. It was noted that TracDat training sessions should be set up and announced for those departments who wish to enter their plans prior to this year's annual assessment report to the provost. Cummings will work with Karen Stokes to schedule and announce training sessions. Benton asked that UASC members discuss potential topics for campus-wide assessment meetings or educational sessions. Suggestions should be sent to Benton prior to the next UASC meeting.

Evans reported on the Assessment grants. Current Assessment Fellows will present their findings at an event scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2006 in the small auditorium of the Fetzer center from 3 to 5 p.m. The guidelines for grant proposals are being revised. Copies of a new budget sheet and a brief definition of assessment were distributed. Comments on the definition, the guidelines, or the budget sheet should be forwarded to Cummings by January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Evans announced that an invitation has been extended to Doug Eder to visit campus. She also updated the committee on the current status of the Center for Teaching and Learning. CTL is "converging" with ATIS under the leadership of Craig Kaml. WMU has a team of faculty who will be attending a Higher Learning Commission workshop. The team will focus on General Education assessment issues and will report to Evans and Delene following the workshop. NSSE and FSSE (student and faculty surveys on student engagement) will be distributed during Spring term. Evans announced that four proposals from WMU were sent to the North Carolina State University Undergraduate Assessment Symposium.

Reinhold reported from the Arts and Sciences RACT. Gender and Women's Studies should be ready for UASC action in February. Parker reported that Manufacturing Engineering's assessment plan has been discussed by the RACT, but there is no recommendation at this time. DiPierro indicated that the plan from Blindness and Low Vision Studies is not ready for committee approval.

Ferrin distributed an article from the Wall Street Journal concerning accountability and higher education. Bundza reported on a meeting to develop learning outcomes for internationalization. Cummings will distribute a copy of the new AAC&U statement on academic freedom, which includes a statement about assessment, to the UASC members.

The meeting adjourned at 4:08.