

University Assessment Steering Committee  
Summary Note # 37 (corrected)  
Meeting Date

Attending: Patrick Benton, chair (Aviation), Maira Bundza (Libraries), Kathy Cummings (EDUC), Kelly Daniels (GSAC), Marianne DiPierro (Grad College), Meg Dupuis (A&S), Eileen Evans (Institutional Effectiveness), Bruce Ferrin (HCOB), Linda Ickes (DOSA), Rand Johnson (A&S), Hossein Mousavinezhad (AAUP), Deb Newson (EUP), Peter Parker (CEAS), Dave Reinhold (USC), Zoann Snyder (A&S), Tyler Watson (Sindecuse).

Absent: Ari-Gur, Barry-Davis, Burns, Brodasky, Dennis, Foulk, Leja, Nagel

Guests: Tim Greene (CEAS), Edmund Tsang (CEAS), Gary Wegenke (COE)

Benton called the meeting to order and welcomed Dean Greene and Associate Dean Tsang. Summary Note #36 was approved with the correction to the affiliation of guest Keith Hearit, Associate Dean of the Honors College. (Evans/Daniels).

Dean Greene was asked to comment on assessment efforts in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. He reviewed the accreditation process for the college and indicated that he would like to see a tighter connection between on-campus assessment activities and the work required for external accreditation of programs. He suggested that the assessment activities in CEAS would be more "ABET-driven" than ever before. Tsang summarized the responses to the questions posed by UASC and agreed that he would like to see a more streamlined reporting that would permit a combining of the processes for accreditation and assessment. One of the strengths of assessment in CEAS is the high standard set by their external accreditation requirements. The college assessment committees could use some assistance in determining strategies for assessing the less measurable aspects of student learning, including lifelong learning, ethics, and teaming. Greene also indicated that the faculty and staff in CEAS had spent around 10% of their time engaged in preparing for the accreditation visit.

Benton discussed the upcoming panel discussions which will provide some additional guidance for assessment committees. Parker suggested that the current model of a single plan for each department may be problematic, especially in departments with multiple programs. Watson discussed the use of alumni surveys and the potential for survey results to impact curriculum. Reinhold asked about the sharing of assessment data with the departments in Arts & Sciences, given that candidates in engineering programs enroll in many courses in A&S. Greene and Tsang were thanked for their participation in the discussion and left the meeting.

Dean Wegenke joined the meeting and was welcomed. Wegenke reviewed his responses to the questions posed by the UASC and addressed the multiple external accreditations and program approvals required in the programs housed in the College of Education. He indicated that COE assessment committees had tried to align their assessment plans with their external accreditation standards wherever possible. He also discussed the impact of the clinical practice components of COE programs on the assessment processed used. Wegenke indicated that one of the challenges facing university faculty is the need to assess students at the start of their programs to be sure that the programs are responsive to student needs and cognizant of their prior experiences. Wegenke asked the UASC to help provide models of student engagement in assessment. Benton thanked Wegenke for his participation and Wegenke left the meeting.

Bundza shared a report on the AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION Internationalization Collaborative Annual Meeting February 3-4, 2006, "Flashpoints in Comprehensive Internationalization." She provided a sample of a faculty assessment instrument and reminded the committee of the Faculty Senate Forum on internationalization scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Evans reported that April 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for assessment fellows proposals and asked for volunteers to review the proposals. Ferrin, Benton, and Ickes volunteered to serve as reviewers. Evans indicated that

Doug Eder has been invited to campus for a fall workshop, with dates to be determined. She reminded the committee that the next UASC meeting should include an election for a committee chair. Evans reviewed the continuing work of the group who attended the HLC/NCA workshop on assessment of general education. The group will propose a plan for assessing the baccalaureate writing requirement.

Benton reminded the committee of the Roundtable/Panel discussion scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 in the little theater at Fetzer. The panel will consist of Bob Wertkin, Pat Benton, and Kathy Cummings. UASC members are encouraged to participate as audience members and to assist in responding to faculty questions.

A copy of the “assessment at a glance” document was distributed. Johnson suggested some changes to the wording of the introduction. He will provide additional comments and suggested wording to soften the language of the introduction.

Cummings announced that the Center for Electronic Portfolios and Assessment (CEPA) is seeking external funding to support projects using electronic portfolios for assessment. CEPA will sponsor a contest for student portfolios in the fall.

Reinhold distributed the RACT report on Gender and Women’s Studies. The plan was approved pending changes to bring all components up to the level of “adequate” (Reinhold/Parker), with the RACT responsible for reviewing the changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20.