

University Assessment Steering Committee
Summary Note # 38
April 17, 2006

Attending: Patrick Benton, chair (Aviation), Sue Brodasky (Institutional Effectiveness), Maira Bundza (Libraries), Kathy Cummings (EDUC), Kelly Daniels (GSAC), Betty Dennis (Univ Curric), Meg Dupuis (A&S), Eileen Evans (Institutional Effectiveness), Bruce Ferrin (HCOB), Lin Foulk (Fine Arts), Linda Ickes (DOSA), Rand Johnson (A&S), Hossein Mousavinezhad (AAUP), Suzie Nagel (DOSA), Peter Parker (CEAS), Dave Reinhold (USC), Tyler Watson (Sindecuse).

Absent: Ari-Gur, Barry-Davis, Burns, DiPierro, Leja, Newson, Snyder

Guests: Dean Janet Pisaneschi, Health and Human Services
John Risley, Research Associate in HHS
Dean Ed Edwards, Haworth College of Business
Associate Dean David Burney, Haworth College of Business

Benton called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes (Rand/Ferrin).

Dean Pisaneschi and Mr. Risley were introduced and provided some background information on the programs within the College of Health and Human Services. Pisaneschi noted that all programs whose professional associations offer national accreditation have been accredited. She indicated that the assessment committees within each department have tried to align their assessment plans with their accreditation standards. The clinical aspects of HHS programs provide an important aspect of assessment within the college. Students are involved in assessment-related activities in a variety of ways including service on committees, engagement in self-assessment, and hands-on activities focused on the processes of assessment within a given profession. Pisaneschi suggested that the UASC could assist the college by helping to define good practice in assessment, including the demands on faculty time required by assessment activities. She noted the strengths of the college's assessment activities have included the external accreditation, the use of student input, and the faculty knowledge base concerning assessment.

Dean Edwards and Associate Dean Burney were introduced and invited to provide their input to the committee. Edwards distributed written responses to the questions posed by the UASC. He indicated that two levels of accreditation directly affect the programs within the HCOB: regional accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission and professional accreditation through the AACSB. Edwards described several councils and committees within the college that address assessment and the use of assessment data and noted that students serve on these councils and committees whenever possible. Burney suggested that feedback to the colleges and departments concerning their assessment reports would further strengthen the culture of assessment being built at WMU. Suggestions for UASC were provided within the written responses and included faculty training, funding to support assessment activities, greater lead time and flexibility in assessment reporting, and sharing of creative plans. Edwards noted that the strengths of assessment within the HCOB included faculty support for assessment, strong relationships with employers, and faculty expertise in assessing student learning.

Evans reported on the deadline for the assessment fellows grants and indicated that recommendations for funding will be brought to the May UASC meeting.

Benton reminded the committee about the assessment "roundtable" scheduled for April 21 and noted that we should plan additional opportunities. Cummings suggested a subcommittee be formed to organize future events. Cummings, Nagel, and Benton agreed to serve on the subcommittee. Benton reported on the North Carolina State University Assessment Symposium, attended by ten WMU faculty and staff members. It was noted that the handouts and slides from the symposium are available on the NCSU web site: <http://www.ncsu.edu/assessment/symposium/handout.htm>

Benton distributed a draft of "Assessment at a glance" and asked for a motion to approve it as the final draft. Motion passed (Cummings/Parker).

RACT reports: Ari-Gur sent information about the revisions needed in the plan from Manufacturing Engineering. Nagel asked for a copy of a previous submission from Blindness and Low Vision Studies. Brodasky noted that RACT chairs are responsible for forwarding an electronic copy of any plans submitted. They should not wait until the plan has been approved. Revised plans should be sent to Brodasky as soon as they are approved.

Cummings nominated Benton as UASC chair for 2006-07. Parker seconded and no further nominations were forthcoming. Benton was elected.

Dupuis reported on a new committee (tentatively titled the Steering Committee to Oversee, Review, and Assess General Education). This committee will develop a plan for assessing proficiency in baccalaureate writing. The new committee will meet with the faculty senate before submitting a plan for this aspect of general education assessment. Discussion about the possible role of the new committee and its relationship to other assessment and general education committees ensued. Additional clarification will be provided following the committee's meeting with the senate.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 3:50 pm.