

University Assessment Steering Committee  
Summary Note #39  
May 22, 2006

Attending: Patrick Benton, chair (Aviation), Josephine Barry-Davis (Int'l Prgms), Sue Brodasky (Institutional Effectiveness), Maira Bundza (Libraries), Kathy Cummings (EDUC), Betty Dennis (Univ Curric ), Meg Dupuis (A&S), Bruce Ferrin (HCOB), Lin Foulk (Fine Arts), Rand Johnson (A&S), Hossein Mousavinezhad (AAUP), Deb Newson (EUP), Dave Reinhold (USC), Yvonne Unrau (CHHS), Tyler Watson (Sindecuse).

Absent: Ari-Gur, Burns, Daniels, DiPierro, Evans, Ickes, Nagel, Parker, Snyder

Guests:

Karen Stokes (TracDat & iWebfolio)  
Bassam Harik (representing dean of A&S)  
Curt Swanson (representing dean of Aviation)  
Jim Hopfensperger (representing dean of CAF)

Benton called the meeting to order. Summary note #38 was approved (Reinhold/Dennis). Harik was invited to comment on the questions provided to deans. He indicated that faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences have been involved in the development, review, and implementation of assessment plans. Each department has an assessment committee, although some departments have combined their assessment and curriculum committees. Greater faculty involvement throughout the assessment process would be helpful as most departments have only a few people who move assessment forward. Students are engaged in assessment in terms of their responses to assessments and their participation in surveys, either as students or alumni. The college would like additional feedback from the UASC and would be likely to make use of a resource center for assessment. Faculty have learned that they do not need to take on the entire assessment plan at once. They are choosing specific outcomes for each year with a cycle of assessments to fulfill the plans.

UASC members discussed the themes that have appeared in most of the deans' reports. Issues with alumni surveys were also discussed.

Swanson was invited to share the College of Aviation responses to the questions posed to the deans by the UASC. He noted that Aviation is a one-department college and therefore has some different issues from other colleges. He shared the college assessment plan which emphasizes the external accreditation process. He indicated that the most difficult aspect of assessment is gaining faculty "buy-in." Swanson suggested that assessment in the UK is "miles ahead of us" prompted questions about whether we should explore the lessons learned from the UK experience.

Hopfensperger was asked to provide the College of Fine Arts responses to the assessment questions. He provided the committee with written notes about each of the questions. He suggested that the college would benefit from "readily available consultation" services. He echoed previous comments that he would like to see greater consistency in faculty engagement in assessment. Strengths of assessment in Fine Arts include their historical use of juries and auditions, their national accreditations, and the generally "can do"

attitude of faculty. He also noted that faculty are over-engaged and find it difficult to participate in assessment activities to the extent they might like.

UASC members noted that the discussions held with the deans and their representatives had provided helpful information and suggestions for future panel discussions. Diversity among panel members was seen as a goal to assure that divergent views were expressed and discussed.

Benton distributed notes from the panel discussion/roundtable. Several of the suggestions from the panel discussion were noted, including the possibility of a link to assessment from the portal, the addition of assessment resources to the library, and possible distribution of assessment “one-liners” to the department assessment committees.

No RACT reports were available.

Grant awards were announced and approved (Bundza/Hossein).

Cummings provided a report from the events committee which was accepted (Benton/Ferrin). She noted that the committee will work with the Office of Institutional Assessment to schedule guest speakers in addition to the panels planned for next year. The panels have been scheduled for September 20, November 29, February 8, and April 5.

Benton welcomed new and returning members to the UASC: Gary Bigelow to replace Rand Johnson and Yvonne Unrau to replace Jim Leja.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00.