

University Assessment Steering Committee
Summary Note # 40
September 18, 2006

Attending: Patrick Benton, chair (Aviation), Judah Ari-Gur (CEAS), Sue Brodasky (Institutional Effectiveness), Maira Bundza (Libraries), Barbara Cockrell (USC), Kathy Cummings (EDUC), Eileen Evans (Institutional Effectiveness), Bruce Ferrin (HCOB), Lin Foulk (Fine Arts), Suzie Nagel (DOSA), Deb Newson (EUP), Carie Robertson (Sindecuse), Zoann Snyder (A&S), Karen Stokes (ex-officio, TracDat), Gwen Tarbox (GSC), Yvonne Unrau (CHHS), Robert Vann (A&S).

Absent:

Dennis, DiPierro, Dupuis, Ickes, Mousavinezhad, Parker

The meeting opened with introductions of new and continuing members. Summary note #39 was approved (Ferrin/Nagel). Benton outlined an emphasis on outreach and support for UASC during the 2006-07 academic year. UASC will schedule activities to help broaden faculty involvement and “demystify” assessment.

Three departments do not yet have approved assessment plans: Mathematics, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, and Manufacturing Engineering (Muskegon and Battle Creek campuses).

Ferrin questioned whether the 2006 call for annual assessment reports actually weakened the commitment to assessment among departments and colleges. He pointed out that deans were asked to send forward reports that were not detailed nor department specific.

Evans indicated that the annual assessment reports from colleges will alternate between the detailed assessment impact reports used in 2005 and the more global reports used in 2006. She will provide copies of the colleges’ annual assessment reports for members of UASC at the next meeting.

Ari-Gur provided clarification about the Manufacturing Engineering program in Muskegon and Battle Creek. The program is not part of another department in the college and therefore needs its own assessment plan. Ari-Gur agreed to chair the RACT that will review the plan.

Benton discussed a conversation with Jim Gilchrist about the inclusion of assessment information in the curriculum change documents. It was noted that any changes to the curriculum change process must be approved by the Senate.

Sue Brodasky’s office is now located in 107 Henry Hall. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness remains in the administration building.

Evans reminded the committee that WMU’s assessment policy calls for an examination of general education assessment findings in 2007-2008 and a re-examination of department assessment plans in 2010-11.

A summary of comments from the UASC’s meetings with academic deans during 2006 was distributed. Evans commented that accreditation and assessment are not the same thing although they are linked. She noted that the deans’ suggestions for changes fit within the guidelines provided by WMU’s assessment policy. She indicated that the Center for Electronic Portfolios and Assessment (CEPA) is a beginning point for additional assessment support.

Other news:

- The 2006-07 Assessment Fellows include: Robert Balik, Judith Swisher, Jim Eckert, Steve Newell, Yvonne Unrau, Melinda McCormick, Evelyn Winfield, and Elaine Phillips.
- WMU is completing the process for re-certification by the National Collegiate Athletic Association this year.

- Evans provided the committee with information about assessment and accreditation from Gloria Rogers.
- The events subcommittee provided a list of upcoming panel presentations and speakers:
 - Wednesday, September 20 from 9-11 am in 208 Bernhard : Panel on Assessment Networking
 - Tuesday, October 17 from 1:30-3 pm in the Brown & Gold Room: “Implementing Sustainable & Useful Assessment---So What’s the Problem?” Dr. Michael Choban will discuss why sustainable assessment is so difficult in higher education settings and suggest strategies for overcoming the problems. His talk will be followed by an overview of the TracDat system and refreshments.
 - Wednesday, November 29 2-4 pm in 208 Bernhard: Panel on Technology Support for Assessment
 - Thursday, February 8 from 9-11 am in 208 Bernhard: Panel on Developing Rubrics for Assessment
 - Thursday, April 5 from 2-4 pm in 208 Bernhard: Panel on Assessment Systems and Plans
- Brodasky provided updates and a demonstration of the online assessment toolbox.
- Brodasky demonstrated the “Assessment Portfolio” created this summer as a means for sharing the assessment work across campus. Comments on the portfolio should be shared with her before the October UASC meeting.
- New RACTs to review the remaining departmental assessment plans were formed:
 - Engineering: Ari-Gur (Chair), Mousavinezhad, Parker, and Benton
 - Arts & Sciences: Snyder (Chair), Dupuis, Cockrell
 - Health & Human Services: Nagel, Cummings (Co-chairs), Foulk

The meeting was adjourned (Ari-Gur/Ferrin).