

University Assessment Steering Committee
Summary Note #54
Meeting Date: 19 May 2008

Attending: Patrick Benton, chair (Aviation), Rosana Alsaud (GSAC); Judah Ari-Gur (CEAS), Sue Brodasky (Institutional Effectiveness), Maira Bundza (International Programs), Kathy Cummings (EDUC), Laura Darrah (DOSA), Mariam Konate Deme (?), Marianne DiPierro (Grad College), Edward Eckel (Libraries), Eileen Evans (Institutional Effectiveness), Alyssa Kalata (GSAC), Kristin Lagerquist (Institutional Effectiveness), Stephen Malcolm (A & S), Deb Newson (EUP), Tim Palmer (HCOB), Peter Parker (07-08 CEAS), Dave Reinhold (A&S, Undergrad Studies Council), Karen Stokes (ex-officio, TracDat), Gwen Tarbox (07-08 GSC).

Guest: Marcia Fetters, VSA

Absent: Foulk, Ickes, Knutson, LeBlanc, Robertson, Unrau

UASC Chair Benton called the meeting to order and asked for approval of Summary Note #53. Summary was approved (Parker/Eckel). New members were introduced. Cummings nominated Pat Benton to chair the UASC during the 2008-09 year. He was elected by acclamation.

Selection of the 2008-09 Assessment Fellows awards were announced and approved (Darrah/Cummings). The recipients are Joyce Walker and Carla Chase.

Lagerquist requested committee members' responses to her call for fall 2008 schedules so meeting dates and times can be established. Responses are requested by June 6th.

Fetters discussed the work of the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) task force. Their report will be available on the Institutional Effectiveness website. The task force has recommended the adoption of the CLA test to meet the requirements of the VSA. It was seen by task force members as the strongest test in terms of writing and critical thinking assessment. Data from the test will be reported four years from now, but a pilot test is planned for the coming academic year. UASC members asked about details of the testing and release of information. Evans noted that an implementation committee is being formed to develop the specifics.

Eckel reported on the SOTL (scholarship of teaching and learning) workshop scheduled for May 30. Thirty-five people have registered for the workshop. Follow-up sessions are being planned for the fall to assist faculty in the development of manuscripts.

The process for updating department assessment plans was discussed. The subcommittee working on this process will meet to determine the logistics of providing consultation with each department assessment committee during the 2008-09 year. UASC members suggested using the deans' annual assessment reports as a source of information for identifying departments in need of assistance. It was suggested that the RACTs, along with a series of workshops, could be used to provide on-going support for the department committees. Malcolm indicated that the UASC should encourage college assessment committees to be active participants in the process.

Assessment plans for the Lee Honors College and the Center for Academic Support Programs are moving forward. Members of UASC will continue to work with them to assist their development of plans that address student learning outcomes.

Evans indicated that she would work on bringing Susan Hatfield to campus in the fall to discuss the "black holes" in assessment as a kick-off to the review process. Another suggested event for the kick-off would be the announcement of assessment award winners. Tarbox reminded the group that we need to reach out to those who are not currently engaged in assessment.

Benton announced that the UASC annual report has been submitted to the Senate.

New member orientation was held prior to the meeting. The information from that session will be shared with the committee. Lagerquist will send the link to the committee members.

Malcolm requested an opportunity to share a report from the International Committee with the UASC. Benton asked Malcolm to send him an email when the report is ready.

Evans distributed a sheet on the “criteria for accreditation” from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and commented on sessions she attended at the HLC meeting.

Reinhold discussed the curriculum changes that had been based on assessment results

Evans noted that she had been invited to attend a graduate course in which students presented their work related to university assessment and encouraged others who have students working on assessment to share the information.

The final meeting of UASC for 2007-08 was adjourned.