

University Assessment Steering Committee  
Summary Note #58  
January 26, 2009

Attending: Patrick Benton, chair (Aviation), Sue Brodasky (Instructional Technology), Maira Bundza (International Programs), Kathy Cummings (EDUC), Laura Darrah (DOSA), Marianne DiPierro (Grad College), Edward Eckel (Libraries), Eileen Evans (Institutional Effectiveness), Lin Foulk (Fine Arts), Kristin Fouts (DOSA), Marilyn Kritzman (AAUP), Kristin Lagerquist (Institutional Effectiveness), Steve Malcolm (A & S), Deb Newson (EUP), Dave Reinhold (Undergrad Studies Council), Cari Robertson (Sindecuse), Gwen Tarbox (GSC).

Absent: Ari-Gur, Bragolone, Konate-Deme, Ickes, Palmer, Stokes, Unrau

Substitute: Tammi Roberts for Kevin Knutson

UASC Chair Benton called the meeting to order and introduced Tammi Roberts who was substituting for Kevin Knutson. He asked for approval of Summary Note #57. It was approved (Evans/Eckel) with the following corrections: Add Malcolm and Fouts, correct the typo in Ari-Gur's name.

Lagerquist demonstrated the changes proposed for the Institutional Effectiveness website and noted that it is still under construction. She asked UASC members to email her with their suggestions. Eckel suggested the use of a "virtual url" to redirect users to the website because the current url is somewhat confusing. Tarbox suggested the creation of an FAQ for the website. It was noted that Lagerquist is the content manager of the site. Several cross-links were suggested to aid users in finding assessment-related information. Malcolm indicated that materials to support the process of reporting assessment results would be helpful.

Eckel discussed the plans for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) workshop. It will be held on May 29<sup>th</sup> and will feature Kathleen McKinney as the keynote. The planning committee includes Eckel, Evans, DiPierro, Lagerquist, Andrea Beach and Betsy Aller.

Benton reminded the committee that deans and chairs may select the period for which their annual assessment reports are written (either academic year or calendar year), but the reports themselves are due to the Provost by August 1. He also discussed the review of last year's annual assessment reports. Cummings and Benton will meet this week to revise the template for UASC comments used last year. It will be sent electronically to UASC members during the week of February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Committee members discussed the possibility of inviting the Provost to a meeting so he can provide his vision of the role of UASC in the university as a whole. A motion to invite the provost and provide questions to him ahead of time was offered and passed (Cummings/Malcolm). The questions will focus on his vision for the future of UASC and his understanding of how UASC fits within the governance structures at the university. The questions will be accompanied with a summary of the 5-year review of UASC's

work. Benton will prepare the letter of invitation asking the Provost to attend the March UASC meeting.

Guidelines for the 2009-10 Assessment Fellows program were distributed. One substantive change was included. Line four now includes the phrase “full-time faculty and staff” to clarify the potential recipients of the grants. It was noted that the wording reflects the practices of the fellows program. The changes were approved (Darrah/Bundza). It was suggested that a similar program be developed to support the assessment-related research of graduate students. A motion was approved to create a subcommittee to look into the options for a graduate student program (Evans/Cummings). Tarbox and DiPierro agreed to serve on the subcommittee.

Evans reported on the opportunity for UASC members who also serve on an HLC committee to participate in the HLC annual meeting in April. Anyone interested in this opportunity should contact Evans.

Evans distributed a memo from HLC concerning the use of data from the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA). It was noted that the VSA program is evidence of transparency, but is not evidence of assessment of student learning. She also distributed information about HLC policy changes related to approval of certificate programs and assessment of distance education programs. Evans reported on the Taskforce on Graduating Senior Data, noting that these data are a mandatory component of VSA. The difficulty of tracking graduates was noted. The taskforce includes representation from academics, alumni association, career services, and other interested parties.

Handouts from an audio conference were provided. The conference focused on the distinction between assessment and accountability.

Benton reported on his involvement with the taskforce. Suggestions about ways to track graduates were provided, including the use of online networking systems, linking alumni address changes with transcript requests, and potential perks for alumni association members.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 pm (Fouts/Malcolm).