

University Assessment Steering Committee
Summary Note #61
April 27, 2009

Attending: Patrick Benton, chair (Aviation), Maira Bundza (International Programs), Kathy Cummings (EDUC), Laura Darrah (DOSA), Edward Eckel (Libraries), Kevin Knutson (Arts & Sciences), Marilyn Kritzman (AAUP), Kristin Lagerquist (Institutional Effectiveness), Dave Reinhold (Undergrad Studies Council), Carie Robertson (Sindecuse), Lynnae Stankus (DOSA), Karen Stokes (ex-officio, TracDat)

Guests: Carla Chase, Lynn Nations-Johnson, Carol Crumbaugh, Joseph Lamina, Diana Hernandez, Nancy Schullery

Summary note #60 was approved with one correction (Kritzman/Cummings). Benton introduced the Assessment Fellows who were making presentations about their projects.

Carla Chase (*Occupational Therapy*) presented the results of her assessment fellows project. The project focused on the development of tools and assignments that would assist the department in moving to a competency-based program that reflects the standards of the national accreditation agency for the profession. Project engaged faculty members in focused discussions around the standards and expectations. Results included faculty agreement about key assessments, linked to the standards, and embedded into OT courses.

Lynn Nations-Johnson (*Teaching, Learning, and Educational Studies*) discussed her project which was designed to assess the processes used in the evaluation of teacher education candidates as part of their clinical field experiences. The methodology used for this project was an ethnographic approach to examining ten evaluation instruments to determine whether consistency exists across the instruments. Emergent themes from this study suggested directions for continued assessment activities and interventions with teacher education candidates.

Marcia Fetters (*Teaching, Learning, and Educational Studies*) described the development of a new follow-up survey of graduates for the teacher education candidates. An electronic survey was developed, with possible adaptations for graduates at various stages in their careers. Issues with implementation of the survey were presented along with plans to respond to the issues. Over 90% of the graduates contacted as part of this study opted out of completing the survey.

Benton thanked the presenters for their participation.

Discussion Items

The 2009-10 selections for the assessment fellows were announced. Two projects were selected: Toni Woolfolk-Barnes & Glinda Rawls will work on a study of the effects of linking the First Year Seminar and UNIV 1020 for students in University Curriculum, and Zoann Snyder will study the Sociology senior capstone course and its learning outcomes related to research. UASC approved the selection of these two projects. (Cummings/Eckel)

Provost visit comments

UASC members noted that the tone of the provost was positive toward assessment and that he had acknowledged the issues with faculty members' attitude about assessment and workload. He recommended that UASC seek greater faculty understanding of assessment. Kritzman noted that she has spoken with AAUP about contractual issues related to assessment and she will continue to bring assessment to the AAUP's attention. Department policy statements are a great place to start in terms of identifying assessment activities as contributing to promotion and tenure decisions. Bundza noted that, even after the Provost's visit, we don't know where we belong—but we know where we DON'T belong--under faculty senate. Benton suggested that UASC should propose its own vision for the future. Motion to engage an ad hoc subcommittee to develop an initial draft of the next 5-year plan to be presented for review & action in fall. Motion passed (Darrah/Reinhold). Darrah, Knutson, Reinhold, Benton, Kritzman, Cummings, and Stokes will serve on this subcommittee. Lagerquist offered to arrange the meetings.

Discussion of the proposed grants for graduate student research on assessment is postponed until DiPierro and Tarbox are able to attend.

Benton announced that he has submitted the UASC annual report to faculty senate and that it has been forwarded to the senate for review.

Benton commended the UASC committee members for their diligent work throughout the year. He indicated that the committee has a far-reaching influence on the university as a whole and has clearly emphasized improvement of the university and its programs.

Reinhold announced that the Committee on General Education has approved a process for faculty groups to discuss assessment in the distribution areas with the goal of developing common assessments within each area.

The Division of Student Affairs will be looking at assessment across the division and building an on-going assessment process.

Benton described his presentation at a national meeting of the Association of Technical Aviation Educators. His talk focused on assessment and had a great turnout. It appears that assessment is a topic of interest for higher education programs in aviation. This is another example of the wide-reaching impact of educational assessment.

The meeting was adjourned (Kritzman/Reinhold).