

University Assessment Committee

MINUTES

Monday, September 10, 2007

11 a.m. in the Rose Room of the Memorial Union

Members in attendance: Bakr Aly Ahmed, Val Anderson, Pam Hansen, Andrea Hanson, Bob Harrold, Bonnie Klamm, Allyn Kostecki, Harriett Light, Ken Magel, Chris McEwen, Charles Okigbo, Larry Peterson, J. W. Schroeder, David Scott, Bill Slanger, Donna Terbizan.

- 1) Bob Harrold brought the meeting to order and welcomed returning and new members. Each member introduced his/herself.

Current buzzword: "*Institutional effectiveness*" (a synonym for accountability)

- 2) Approval of minutes from the meeting of April 16, 2007: Allyn Kostecki moved to approve the minutes. Harriett Light seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.
- 3) Additions to the proposed agenda and announcements:
 - No requests for additions or updates to the proposed agenda
 - Bonnie Klamm to be the recorder for 2007-2008
 - Bill Slanger explained the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) and distributed information about CLA (Carnegie Results, Fall 2007; Performance Tasks). The University is planning to implement the CLA starting with freshman (approximately 400) in Fall 2007 and continuing with sophomores in Spring 2009 and seniors in Spring 2011. The areas covered include critical thinking, writing, and reasoning. B. Slanger distributed a draft of a letter to freshman re: participation in the study. This was followed by a discussion on revising the draft. Committee members were encouraged to communicate directly with B. Slanger with any additional comments or suggestions.
- 4) Overview of handouts in the packet and for this meeting.

Packet included Membership Roster; 2006-2007 UAC Annual Report; Tables of Progress on Reviews for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008; Assessment Report Matrix for 2006-2007 and for 2007-2008; Table of Evaluations of Assessment Reports; Minutes of meetings (2006-2007) and Results of surveys (Chronicle of Higher Education) about "Colleges and Universities should be held more accountable for their students' educational outcomes."
- 5) Items presented by members of the University Assessment Committee.
 - Bill Slanger reported that the national student survey of student learning is out and will be posted soon.

- Bakr Aly Ahmed proposed a discussion on the grading system and the use of pluses and minuses with letter grades. It was determined that this was an issue for the Academic Affairs Committee.

6) Committee activities:

- *Communication and Training Subcommittee* will reorganize this fall. Pam Hansen will setup some meetings to determine the direction of subcommittee. Ideas discussed were: inform faculty about the kinds of assessment; educating the chairs, discuss the importance of assessment and the meaning of assessment; faculty perceptions and views on assessment. This led to a committee discussion on department's assessment reports (and lack thereof). Chris McEwen volunteered to join the subcommittee as the student representative. The other subcommittee members are Pam Hansen, Charles Okigbo, Bob Harrold, and Bill Slinger.
- *University-wide Assessment Plan Subcommittee* The main purpose of this subcommittee is to begin reviewing the 1995 assessment plan for revision (next accreditation visit is in 2016). Andrea Hanson volunteered to join the subcommittee as a student representative. Other committee members are Val Anderson, Ken Magel, David Scott, Bonnie Klamm, Bob Harrold. Andrea Hanson volunteered to join this subcommittee as the student representative. David agreed to serve as chair.

7) New Business:

Bonnie Klamm asked the committee to consider adding a second evaluation of the annual assessment reports that reflected improvement from previous year's report. Ken Magel suggested a rubric for scoring.

8) 11:56 all members moved to adjourn.