

University Assessment Committee

Minutes for the Meeting of Wednesday, November 5, 2008

Members of the University Assessment Committee present included:

Bakr Aly Ahmed, John Bitzan, Ed Deckard, Carolyn Grygiel, Bob Harrold, Abram Jackson, Bunnie Johnson-Messelt, Debb Pankow, Larry Peterson, David Scott, and Bill Slanger.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. in the Room of Nations of the Memorial Union. There were no additions, corrections, or updates to the draft of minutes for the previous meeting of October 8, 2008 and the draft copy of the minutes distributed electronically on October 9, 2008 was approved.

There were no additions or updates to the proposed agenda.

Announcements: Larry Peterson described the background of the current system-wide General Education requirements that had been developed in 1988 and noted that they had no connection to assessment nor student learning outcomes. NDUS Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Michel Hillman has indicated support for revisiting system-wide General Education requirements to bring them into step with national trends and standards. A small group that includes representation from NDSU has been developed to plan an NDUS General Education Summit. Current expectations include a two-year period for planning and preparation of new guidelines as an update to SBHE Policy # 403.7.

Handouts distributed at the meeting or electronically prior to the meeting included three assessment reports from the Department of English, one from the Interior Design Program, and assessment activities reported for NRM 225.

Assessment reports were overdue for CHEM, ARCH/LA, HNES, Music, MMF, and SUTG.

Reports from Current Subcommittees:

University-Wide Assessment Plan Subcommittee: (Bakr Aly Ahmed, Doğan Çömez, Bob Harrold, Bunnie Johnson-Messelt, Debb Pankow, David Scott, Subcommittee Chair). The members of this subcommittee have met once and will continue to develop an assessment plan that encompasses the campus. Debb Pankow offered to post the current draft onto an Extension site that would permit group editing. Elements to receive immediate consideration included the sections to describe activities in Student Affairs and in the NDSU Extension Service. The next meeting of this subcommittee was scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 19, 2008.

Communication and Training Subcommittee: (John Bitzan, Ed Deckard, Bob Harrold, Larry Peterson, and Bill Slanger). This subcommittee has not identified a chair and several members presented items discussed at the initial meeting of this group. Topics that had been discussed included: multi-year

activities with different themes, topical luncheons akin to the Pedagogical Luncheons that could include follow-up activities, and emulation of the Peer Review process that would feature assessment mentors. Other concepts included obtaining input on individual classroom assessment activities that permit faculty to see an immediate payoff to supplement program assessments. An emphasis could be placed on incentives and follow-through. The next meeting for this group was scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2008 at 3 p.m.

All members of the University Assessment Committee are encouraged to participate in the activities of either subcommittee, or both.

Unfinished business:

October drafts of a communiqué to Chairs and Heads that included a reminder to apply Section of Policy 332 were discussed. The idea of this communication had been discussed by the UAC at meetings of April 7 and October 8, 2008. A motion was presented (Aly Ahmed, Bitzan) to strike the last page of the draft, which was a counter argument that assessment takes time. After further discussion focusing on the tone of the paragraph immediately following the restatement of Section 1 of Policy 332, Slanger moved that the motion be tabled. The motion passed unanimously. Harrold indicated that he would like comments regarding content and tone of the communiqué by November 17.

No additional items of unfinished business were presented by members of the University Assessment Committee.

New Business:

The short list of resources (references) E-mailed to committee members on October 27, 2008 was discussed with general agreement to add items that would apply to units in Student Affairs and the NDSU Extension Service. Some of the items (for example, the reference by Bloom) could be removed because of the nature of their content. The reference "Classroom Assessment Techniques. A Handbook for College Teachers" by Thomas A. Angelo and K. Patricia Cross was endorsed as still relevant and useful.

No additional items of new business were presented by members of the University Assessment Committee.

Adjournment: There was no additional business to conduct and a motion to adjourn the meeting was presented and passed at approximately 9:10 a.m.

Contributing recorders: Bill Slanger and Bob Harrold

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Next meeting of the University Assessment Committee:

Wednesday, November 26, 2008, in the Room of Nations at 8:30 a.m.
(This is the last meeting scheduled for the current semester.)