

University Assessment Committee
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, October 19, 2011
3 p.m. in the Mandan Room of the Memorial Union

Members of the University Assessment Committee Present: John Bitzan, Carolyn Grygiel, Bob Harrold, Bunnie Johnson-Messelt, Marinus Otte, Debb Pankow, Larry Peterson, Elizabeth Skoy, Bill Slanger, Joni Wiebesick. Recorder: Linda Dahlsad.

Focal points for this meeting: Identification of subcommittees and membership.

Motion to temporarily set aside the definition of a quorum (Marinus Otte/Bunny Johnson-Messelt) was approved and the meeting began at 3:02 p.m.

Items on the proposed agenda, announcement, and handouts:

- 1) Minutes of the September 28, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed.
- 2) Additions to the proposed agenda and announcements:
 - A) Corrections and updates to the proposed agenda. (None)
 - B) Announcements from members of this committee.
Bill Slanger announced there are 58 people signed up for the CLA Performance Task Academy being held on November 3 and 4 at NDSU. Thirty-two registrants are from UND and 26 are from NDSU.
 - C) Introductions were made.
 - D) Announcements from related committees or activities (Gen Ed, Senate, others).
General Education report by Larry Peterson deferred until later in the meeting.
 - E) Points of interest presented by members of this committee.
Improvement phase for capstone courses will be completed by summer 2013.
The assurance section for reaccreditation will be due summer 2015.
- 3) Unfinished business:
 - A) Formation of subcommittees and identification of membership. The Education and Training Subcommittee members will sponsor one to three assessments (as previously determined). Development of a rubric for process simplification or upgrading the current form was suggested as options. Development of volunteers to expand the base of reviewers was suggested as an opportunity and additional discussion was continued as New Business. UAC members should identify if they want to be on any of the subcommittees. Bill Slanger volunteered.
- 4) New Business:
 - A) Update on "Campus Labs" (previously "Student Voice") from Bunnie Johnson-Messelt. Student Affairs have moved forward with assessment, Campus Labs has expanded into academic affairs and institutional research and it is used by 650 colleges and universities. Users can now link to department goals. Student Voice/Campus Labs has offered to provide a 15 to 20 minute demonstration at a meeting in the future. The data can be exported out in different formats. Student Affairs will receive training in November. The program is very user friendly and it has been a good experience for Student Affairs. Members indicated a presentation would be helpful and requested the presentation be at the beginning of a meeting. Bunny will set up a presentation for the November 30 meeting. Bob ask the Union for a video cart.
 - B) Items presented by members of the University Assessment Committee.
Marinuss Otte discussed bringing in more people to do the reviews. Currently members of the committee do the reviews. It could be like a peer review but would need somebody to

coordinate it. An Assessment Day following the model used in the Department of English was suggested as an approach for a dedicated time of completing reviews away from your normal day to day work. Various models were discussed and included experience for graduate students preparing for teaching careers.

5) Other pertinent items presented by members of the University Assessment Committee.

Announcements from related committees or activities (Gen Ed, Senate, others). The General Education Committee report was given by Larry Peterson. He reviewed the handout about the Sixth North Dakota General Education Summit at UND on September 30 – October 1, 2011. High Impact Learning practices make the most difference. Example practices include first year experience, capstones, and writing in upper-division courses.

Advantages related to these practices include increased retention and graduation rates. Concerns about student engagement and mobility exist because transfer students are less likely to participate in High Impact Learning. This is especially true for transfer students who have attended multiple institutions.

Bismarck State College is an example of an institution where shared rubrics are used to assess campus-wide learning outcomes. Larry discussed activities of the General Ed Council in assuring that activities involve all NDUS institutions as well as affiliated Tribal colleges. A survey of employers has indicated that they expect to hire more liberal arts graduates, in part because of their broad education.

Larry reviewed the highlights of the handout about the Association for General and Liberal Studies 51st Annual Conference, “Liberal Education in the Eye of the Storm: Harboring Undergraduate Education,” that was held in Miami from October 6-8, 2011. Assessment is expected to have even greater importance in the future. Student learning outcomes are the future of higher education but research universities typically have competing priorities.

The Lumina Foundation’s goal is to increase the percentage of individuals in the U.S. having college degrees or certificates. Currently the percentage is staying flat and the United State is falling behind other countries in education achievement. The Bologna Process can serve as a benchmark for what various degrees mean across universities and countries. The Degree Qualifications Profile is an initial response to the Bologna Process and the Lumina Foundation is seeking feedback to the beta version published this year. There is a significant need for shared perspectives of what students having a given credential in any individual field should know and be able to do.

6) Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Future meetings of the University Assessment Committee for the 2011 – 2012 academic year: Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 3 p.m. in the Room of Nations
Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 3 p.m. in the Mandan Room.