

To: NDSU Faculty Senate

From: University Assessment Committee

Subject: 2011-2012 Annual Report

Date: April 27, 2012

The University Assessment Committee (UAC) met monthly from September through December, 2011. However, due to a transition to a new Director of Assessment, the committee did not meet again until April.<sup>1</sup>

A major activity of the UAC was reviewing assessment reports submitted by academic and student affairs units. The committee completed several reviews throughout the academic year, and is continuing to complete reviews over the summer. A goal of the committee is to complete all outstanding reviews by Fall 2012.

The committee also revised the reporting guidelines for assessment activities that are distributed to academic and student affairs units. With goals of streamlining the process, making it more useful for academic/student affairs units, and facilitating reports that allow multiple-reviewer feedback, we made important changes. These included introducing a page limit on reports of 5 pages, asking units to focus on one learning goal, and emphasizing the importance of assessment aimed at programmatic goals.

We plan to make further refinements to the process in future years. In making future refinements, we aim to make the process easier/less cumbersome for academic/student affairs units, to align the process with programmatic accreditation bodies, and to align the process with university learning goals (e.g. Degree Qualifications Profile).

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<sup>1</sup> The previous Director of Assessment, Bob Harrold, retired in December. The new Director of Assessment, Accreditation, and Academic Advising, Larry Peterson, was not hired until March. The committee did not think it would make sense to meet during the interim period, due to a likelihood that the new director would have his or her own vision for assessment.