

Annual Report to the University Senate

From the University Assessment Committee

2005 – 2006 Academic Year

Submitted to:

James Council, President, University Senate
Eugene Berry, President-Elect, University Senate
Charles Harter, Immediate Past Presiding Officer, University Senate
R. Craig Schnell, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Kristi Wold-McCormick, Registrar and Secretary of the University Senate
William Slanger, Director, Office of Institutional Research and Analysis
Michael Robinson, University Archives

Date submitted May 5, 2006

Members of the University Senate for the 2005 – 2006 academic year:

Val Anderson (Graduate Students, Spring Semester), Eugene Berry (Liaison from the Executive Committee of the University Senate), Joseph Brennan (Science and Mathematics), Ross Collins (Art, Humanities, and Social Sciences), Russell Danielson (Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources), Bob Harrold (Accreditation and Assessment), Bonnie Klamm (Business Administration), Allyn Kostecki (Student Affairs), Harriett Light (Graduate and Interdisciplinary Studies), Justin Miedema (Undergraduate Students), Christine Oliver (Graduate Students, Fall Semester), Mark Schmidt (Human Development and Education), J.W. Schroeder (NDSU Extension Service), David Scott (Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences), and William Slanger (Institutional Research and Analysis).

Meetings: Meetings were held on September 19, October 17, November 21, January 30, February 27, March 27, and April 17 during the 2005 – 2006 academic year. A meeting scheduled for December 5 was cancelled at the request of the members of the University Assessment Committee. In addition, members of the University Assessment Committee met with representatives from the team of Consultant-Evaluators from the Higher Learning Commission during their site-visit in February.

Major Activities and Accomplishments:

- Twenty nine annual assessment reports have been received during the period covered by this report. A letter of review and an independent review have been provided for 19 reports. Independent reviews have been received for five reports and the independent reviews for five reports are in process. (Note: a large number of reports have reporting dates of May 15 or July 1 and are not included in the count for the academic year.)

- The General Education Committee was without a permanent chair for much of this academic year. As a result, the chair of this committee provided updates of Gen Ed activities at monthly meetings of the University Assessment Committee.

- The importance of distance education was recognized by the committee. After participation by the Dean of Graduate and Interdisciplinary Studies and the Director of Distance and Continuing Education at a meeting of this committee, a request was presented to the University Senate at their March meeting for a bylaws change to add a representative of Distance and Continuing Education as a voting member of the Assessment Committee. That request was approved upon second reading during the April 10, 2006 meeting of the University Senate.

- Numerical ratings will be added to the letter of response to assessment reports to provide additional information to departments and programs about their activities in assessing student learning. A 10-point scale will be used.

- Copies of a paper presented at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Higher Learning Commission. "Student Learning, Assessment, and Accreditation" were distributed to academic Deans, Directors, and Chairs/Heads.

- The "Guidelines for Reporting Assessment Activities" for the 2006 – 2007 academic year were updated by a subcommittee (Schmidt, Chair, Anderson, Klamm, Light) for distribution in August. This subcommittee has also revised the review form used by members of the committee to provide feedback to academic programs and to help faculty recognize key points sought in annual reports of assessment activities.

- Bob Harrold has been elected to serve as the chair of the University Assessment Committee for the 2006 – 2007 academic year. Meeting times for Fall, 2006 have not been established at the time that this report was completed.

Items to be Carried Over to the 2006 – 2007 Academic Year:

- Revision of the University Assessment Plan developed in 1995,

Copy: Members of the University Assessment Committee.