

Report of Activities of the University Assessment Committee

2006 - 2007 Academic Year

Submitted to the Executive Committee of the University Senate
May, 2007

Members of the University Assessment Committee include:

Val Anderson (Graduate Students), Sarah Beck (Student Government), Gene Berry (Liaison from the Executive Committee), Russ Danielson (Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources), Pam Hansen (Human Development and Education), Bob Harrold (Accreditation and Assessment), Bonnie Klamm (Business), Allyn Kostecki (Student Affairs), Harriett Light (Graduate and Interdisciplinary Studies), Gary Liguori (Distance and Continuing Education), Ken Magel (Science and Mathematics), Justin Miedema (Student Government), Charles Okigbo (Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences), Larry Peterson (Liaison from the General Education Committee), J. W. Schroeder (NDSU Extension Service), David Scott (Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences), and William Slanger (Institutional Research and Analysis).

The duties of the University Assessment Committee, as identified in the Bylaws of the University Senate, are:

2. Committee responsibilities are the following:
 - a. Periodically review the assessment of student learning in the university's undergraduate and graduate programs.
 - b. Develop procedures for the annual reporting of assessment activities by departments and other academic units.
 - c. Provide feedback and assistance to departments and other academic units on their assessment activities.
 - d. Provide a yearly summary of assessment activities to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis, the Office of Accreditation and Assessment, and the Senate.

The University Assessment Committee met five times during the Fall Semester (September 8th and 22nd, October 6th, November 3rd and 17th) and four times during the Spring Semester (January 22nd, February 5th, March 26th, and April 16th).

Major activities for the Fall Semester included:

- Distribution of materials at the first meeting to provide background information for new members and review for returning members.
- Formation of a subcommittee to update the 1995 campus-wide assessment plan.

- Discussion of opportunities for enhanced campus-wide awareness of assessment. Discussion spanned several meetings and culminated with the formation of a subcommittee to address educational opportunities for faculty and department/program administrators.
- Seven assessment reports were distributed to committee members for review. Reviews are complete for four of those reports. A total of 24 reports have been received during the Fall Semester. Responses have been sent to 10 units.

Major activities for the Spring Semester included:

- Eighteen assessment reports have been received during this calendar year. Eight reports were distributed to members of the University Assessment Committee for review and four reviews were completed by three committee members. Two completed reviews have been returned to departments at the time that this report was written.
- The annual letter to Chairs, Heads, and Program Coordinators and updated Guidelines have been reviewed and approved by members of the Committee. These items and additional materials will be mailed to academic units in early August. The Guidelines are essentially unchanged from those used for several years.
- As an outcome of discussions initiated by Prakash Mathew, Vice President for Student Affairs, the departments within the Division of Student Affairs will provide assessment reports to the assessment committee and an executive summary will be included in their annual report.
- The initial Student Rating of Learning instrument was reviewed and discussed. The Office of Institutional Research and Analysis has provided leadership for this project. Information Technology Services and the University Assessment Committee have provided additional support. Members of Student Government and the Residence Hall Association provided valuable suggestions during the development of the current instrument.

Several committee members attended the Pedagogical Luncheon on this item and select members are among the approximately 40 faculty volunteers for the first evaluation of the current instrument.

- The two subcommittees developed during the Fall Semester (Education and Training, and updating the University-Wide Assessment Plan) became inactive during the Spring Semester because of the focus on the Student Rating of Learning.
- Electronic discussion of evaluating academic advising was initiated, but not concluded. This topic will become a part of the agenda for the 2007 - 2008 academic year.
- An example departmental assessment plan and an example departmental

assessment report were developed as an outcome of a meeting with the Chairs and Heads of one college. Those items were distributed by the Dean to Chairs and Heads in that college. The example documents will be posted to the University Assessment Committee's Web-site for campus-wide access.

- Monthly updates from the General Education Committee continue to stimulate conversation between the two committees.
- The contributions of three retiring members of this committee, Sarah Beck, Gary Liguori, and Justin Miedema, will be missed. Each individual was a strong contributor to the progress of the committee during the 2006 - 2007 academic year.
- Bob Harrold was elected to serve as Chair for the 2007 - 2008 academic year.

Copies of this report will be distributed to:

Dr. Eugene Berry, President of the University Senate
Dr. Donna Terbizar, President-Elect of the University Senate
Incoming President-Elect of the University Senate for 2007 - 2008
Dr. R. Craig Schnell, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Kristi Wold-McCormick, Registrar
Dr. William Slanger, Director of the Office of Institutional Research
and Analysis
University Archives