

## **University Assessment Committee**

### **Annual Report of Committee Activities for the 2009 – 2010 Academic Year**

**Submitted to:**

Mark Meister, Presiding Officer, University Senate for the 2009 – 2010 Academic Year

Amy Rupiper-Taggart, Presiding Officer-Elect

R. Craig Schnell, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Kristi Wold-McCormick, Secretary of the University Senate

Michael Robinson, University Archives

**Members of the University Assessment Committee (UAC) during the 2009 – 2010 academic year included:** Bakr Aly Ahmed, (E&A), John Bitzan (Business), Clare Carlson (Undergraduate Students<sup>1</sup>), Ed Deckard (AFSNR), Myron Eighmy (HD&E), Brian Fier (Graduate Students), Carolyn Grygiel (Grad School), Bob Harrold (Assessment), Abram Jackson (Undergraduate Students<sup>1</sup>), Connor Johnson (Undergraduate Students<sup>2</sup>), Bunnie Johnson-Messelt (Student Affairs), Robert Littlefield (AH&SS), Kenneth Magel (Sci & Math), Mark Meister (Senate Liaison), Debra Pankow (Extension), Larry Peterson (Gen Ed), David Scott (Ph, Nurs, & AS), Bill Slanger (OAIR), Robert Vallie (Undergraduate Students<sup>2</sup>). (<sup>1</sup> = Fall Semester, <sup>2</sup> = Spring Semester.)

The UAC held six meetings during the 2009 – 2010 academic year: September 18, 2009, October 10, 2009, October 30, 2009, January 26, 2010, February 23, 2010, and April 20, 2010.

Permission had been received from an academic department to modify their assessment report to serve as an example for training UAC reviewers and for examination by other departments. This example assessment report was discussed early in the Fall Semester for the benefit of new members who volunteered to serve as reviewers.

UAC members representing Student Affairs and the NDSU Extension Service discussed assessment activities within the areas that they represented. Applications of StudentVoice as a tool for collecting data were discussed, as were additional electronic options that were in use or were being considered by one or more units. (StudentVoice is currently used by Student Affairs.) Example formats used by the Extension Service to document student/client learning were distributed and discussed.

A total of 46 assessment reports and assessment plans, including 14 assessment plans from the Division of Student Affairs, were received during the current academic year. UAC members provided 22 independent reviews for assessment reports and four independent reviews remain in progress. Completed have been sent to 33 units and 13 recent arrivals will be reviewed in the approximate order of receipt. Requests for expedited reviews are honored whenever possible.

Review formats were discussed and UAC members preferred the practice of single independent reviewers whenever possible because of the time involved in completing a comprehensive review as a member of a team of reviewers.

Membership in the two subcommittees, University-Wide Assessment Plan and Education and Training, will be reconstituted during the 2010 – 2011 academic year to permit UAC members wishing to change subcommittee affiliation to do so.

Cross-representation with the General Education Committee continues to be beneficial as UAC members learn of current activities and trends at the state and national levels. Similarly, UAC members benefit from representation from the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis by receiving in-depth information about the results of various surveys of student involvement, learning, and perspectives. As a result of these contributions, several meetings have included an emphasis on assessment of student learning outcomes rather than more generic goals statements.