

Annual Report from the University Assessment Committee for the 2010 – 2011 Academic Year

To: The Faculty Senate: Dr. Amy Rupiper-Taggart, President of the Faculty Senate
Dr. Gary Totten, President-Elect of the Faculty Senate
Dr. R. C. Schnell, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. D.C. Coston, Vice President for Agriculture and University Extension
Mr. Duane Hauck, Director of the NDSU Extension Service

Copies: Prakash Mathew, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Kristi Wold-McCormick, Secretary of the Faculty Senate
Mr. Kevin Black, Student Body President, 2010 – 2011 academic year
Mr. Cam Knutson, Student Body President, 2011 – 2012 academic year
University Archives

Members of the University Assessment Committee for the 2010 – 2011 academic year included: Bakr Aly Ahmed (*Engineering and Architecture*), John Bitzan (*Business*), Ed Deckard (*Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources*), Myron Eighmy (*Human Development and Education*), Carolyn Grygiel (*Graduate School*), Bob Harrold (*Accreditation and Assessment*), Bunnie Johnson-Messelt (*Student Affairs*), Robert Littlefield (*Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences*), Marinus Otte (*Science and Mathematics*), Debb Pankow (*NDSU Extension Service*), Larry Peterson (*General Education*), David Scott (*Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences*), Bill Slanger (*Institutional Research and Analysis*), Robert Vallie (*Student Government*), and David Wittrock (*Distance and Continuing Education*). The Liaison from the Faculty Senate was Amy Rupiper-Taggart and the Recorder was Kristen Tomanek.

Eight meetings of the University Assessment Committee were scheduled for the 2010 – 2011 academic year. Significant achievements of the committee were completion of a university-wide assessment plan by the members of a subcommittee dedicated to that purpose and presentation of two assessment luncheons during March 2011. Claudette Peterson (School of Education) addressed her experiences with assessment of student learning at a luncheon on March 21 while Larry Peterson (General Education/History) and Bill Slanger described example rubrics on March 29. Support for the assessment luncheons from the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs is gratefully acknowledged.

Members of the committee continue to provide perspectives as independent (second) reviewers for assessment reports from Academic Affairs and from Student Affairs. Several reports continue to provide excellent information about the assessment of student learning. The most effective reports from units in Academic Affairs feature a strong assessment plan, incorporate multiple measures of student learning (multiple classroom assessment techniques), and respond effectively to the three basic questions of assessment. (The basic questions are: What did you do? What did you learn? What will you do differently as a result of what was learned?) Strong reports from units in Student Affairs feature assessment activities outlined in the C.A.S. Standards and implemented through StudentVoice. Federal reports are used as assessment reports for the NDSU Extension Service as the guidelines speak to effective assessment techniques.

During the process of converting from a University Senate format to a Faculty Senate arrangement, the members of the University Assessment Committee sought to retain the then-current membership and were advised to seek classification as a Joint Standing Committee rather than that of a Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate. That change in status was approved by the members of the Faculty Senate during their meeting of February 14, 2011.

The descriptions of the membership of the committee and its responsibilities that appear on page 12 of the Faculty Senate Bylaws are reproduced below.

Section 6. University Assessment

1. Membership shall consist of one faculty member from each representation unit, a representative from the General Education Committee, a representative of the Dean of Graduate and Interdisciplinary Studies, the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, one undergraduate student, and one graduate student appointed by the Student Senate, a representative from the Division of Student Affairs, a representative from the NDSU Extension Service, a representative from the Office of Institutional, Research and Analysis, a representative from Distance and Continuing Education, and the Director of the Office of Accreditation and Assessment.
2. Committee responsibilities include:
 - a. Periodically reviewing the assessment of student learning in undergraduate and graduate academic programs, within the units in the Division of Student Affairs and in the NDSU Extension Service.
 - b. Developing procedures for annual reporting of assessment activities by departments and other academic units, units in the Division of Student Affairs, and the NDSU Extension Service on their assessment activities.
 - c. Providing feedback and assistance to departments and other academic units on their assessment activities.
 - d. Providing a yearly summary of assessment activities to the Faculty Senate, The Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice President for Agriculture and University Extension, and the Director of the NDSU Extension Service.

Plans for the 2011 – 2012 academic year include:

- Presentation of the campus-wide assessment plan to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and to the Faculty Senate for the purposes of information.
- Development of additional Assessment Luncheons to address requests of participants in the luncheons held in March 2011.
- Development of additional avenues for sharing information about assessment of student learning with the campus. Potential topics include examples of effective classroom assessment techniques, techniques to identify non-cognitive learning, and selection of student learning outcomes that emphasize the learning achievements deemed to be important in cognitive and non-cognitive environments.