

University Assessment Committee
Draft Minutes for Wednesday, September 10, 2008
8:30 a.m. in the Room of Nations - Memorial Union

Members present included: Bakr Aly Ahmed, John Bitzan, Clare Carlson, Dogan Çömez, Ed Deckard, Carolyn Grygiel, Bob Harrold, Abram Jackson, Bunnie Johnson-Messelt, Ken Magel, Charles Okigbo, Debb Pankow, Larry Peterson, David Scott, and Bill Slanger

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:35. New members were welcomed. Each member introduced themselves, their area of representation, and identified three individuals that they might invite as dinner guests.

Approval of minutes from the meeting of April 7, 2008.

There were no additions, corrections, or updates to the minutes and they were, by consent, approved as distributed in the annual packet to committee members.

Additions to the proposed agenda and announcements:

There were no additions and updates to the proposed agenda and no announcements from members of the committee. The overview and discussion of handouts in the annual packet for committee members and those added for this meeting occupied much of the time available for committee business.

Committee members representing academic programs were encouraged to review at least one assessment report per semester.

No additional items were presented by members of the University Assessment Committee.

Committee activities:

Discussions of the University-wide Assessment Plan Subcommittee and the Communication and Training Subcommittee included consideration of potential audiences for an updated assessment plan and enhancing communication to unit administrators and to faculty. Individual members expressed opinions about developing incentives for engagement in assessment, overcoming misperceptions about assessment of student learning, and recognition for achievement in assessing student learning.

The discussion of the activities of each subcommittee during the previous academic year included descriptions of progress that had been achieved. Members new to this committee were encouraged to participate in at least one of the subcommittees.

The example of a highly-selective public university with a large staff to administer, collect, and summarize assessment information was presented. Points of view were expressed about potential faculty reaction on our campus to adding positions to develop an equivalent assessment program.

Unfinished business:

Discussion of an E-mail to Chairs and Heads about Section 1 of Policy 332 (requested by members of the Committee during the meeting of April 7, 2008) was delayed until the next meeting because of a lack of time for adequate debate.

New business:

No items of New Business were on the agenda.

Adjournment:

Discussion subcommittees had extended until approximately 9:25 a.m. and a motion for adjournment was entertained. The motion (Magel/Scott) received unanimous approval.

Future meetings of the University Assessment Committee:

Wednesday, October 8, 2008; Wednesday, November 5, 2008; and
Wednesday, November 26, 2008 in the Room of Nations.
Each meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Recorder: Bob Harrold