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University Committee on Assessment

Annual Report

2000-2001

Members: Christine Hansen (Chair), Kris Condic, Margaret Early, Isaac Eliezer, Lynn Hockenberger, Charles Marks, Don Mayer, Shannan McNair, Ishwar Sethi, Laura Schartman, Ron Sudol

General

The Assessment Committee continued to review annual reports from departments and programs. Because of the impending focused visit on assessment by the North Central accrediting team in 2004, the committee moved to a staggered 3-year reporting schedule in 1999-2000 to provide more in-depth review of annual reports and more assistance improving plans and implementation. By the end of 2000, reports had been received from only 16 of 24 departments/programs scheduled for February, 2000. A number of the reports received were minimal or incomplete, and revised reports were requested. Ten reports were complete enough to be reviewed by the committee during 2000-2001, and feedback letters were sent out. Of the remainder, most are in the process of revising their plans and are not yet able to prepare annual reports. Because of an over-reliance on survey and anecdotal data, most units and programs have been asked to create new assessment plans in which actual student learning will be assessed. For 13 units and programs whose reports were due in 2000-2001, annual reports were received from only 4 units/programs. Two were reviewed and were sent feedback. The others arrived too late to be reviewed before the last committee meeting in April and are scheduled for review in the Fall. Updates were requested from all nonresponding units, and the majority of these units are either revising their assessment plans or have promised reports soon.

Updates also were requested from all units and programs whose reports are due in 2001-2002. So far, more than half have responded and have promised reports and/or revised plans during this coming year. Along with reviewing annual reports and providing feedback, C. Hansen and other members of the committee have been working with individual units to help them to create new assessment plans. New plans already have been received from several departments and programs, and a number of others are in the final planning stages.

The committee also worked to revise the University Assessment Plan. Changes should be finalized this Fall.

Programs

The committee sponsored three assessment workshops during the last academic year: "How to make the grading process quick, fair, and conducive to learning" (Barbara Walvoord, September); "Everything you always wanted to know about assessment measures" (Linda Suskie, October); and "Questionnaire survey research" (Linda Suskie, April). About 30 faculty attended each workshop. As part of her April visit, Suskie also met with the Deans Council to discuss the importance of assessment.

Funding

Only four departments requested funding to help defray the costs of assessment, and all four (Communications, Environmental Health, Rhetoric, and Psychology) were funded. In addition, funding was provided for five faculty to attend assessment conferences during the year.

Submitted by,
Christine Hansen
(8/31/01)



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