

Assessment Committee (UAC)

Annual Report 2010 – 2011

May 13, 2011

Members: Carrie Abele (Chair), Aaron Bird, Tanya Christ, Julie Granthen, David Kidger, Austin Murphy, Kay Palmer, Maura Selahowski, Sankar Sengupta, Sally Tardella, Reuben Ternes, Bob Van Til, Susan Awbrey, Graham Cassano, Beth Kraemer, Cynthia Miree-Coppin, Laura Schartman

Support staff at OIRA: Kay Palmer, Reuben Ternes

Highlights of the year's work:

- Reports and/or plans reviewed for 34 programs, including three new proposed programs (Education Specialist in Early Education, BA in Creative Writing, and Biomedical Sciences)
- UAC teams continued to meet with departments and programs face-to-face as needed to support plan and report development

Workshop held:

- February 9, 2011: Kicking Assessment Blues: Practical Strategies from Two Award-winning Programs

Assessment Award:

- The 2011 Assessment Award winner was Modern Languages
- The other nominees for the award were: Art History, Bachelor of Integrative Studies, Biology, and English

The Assessment Committee's activities related to the "Senate's Charge to the Assessment Committee" in 2010 – 2011 appear below:

Charge:

1. *To coordinate and advise on the planning and implementation of assessment by academic units.*
 - a. The assessment committee distributes report due dates over a two-year cycle, so reports for approximately 25% of all programs/departments are due each semester. Programs which still lack an approved assessment plan (of which there are very few) or which fail to submit reports in a timely manner are sent reminders each semester.
 - b. Assessment committee members work in teams to review plans and reports. The team provides a summary to the committee and prepares a response letter for the program/department.
 - c. When a program/department receives a letter responding to their plan or report, they are given names of the team members who reviewed the plan/report to contact with questions or concerns. In addition, if the team members have any questions or concerns about the plan or report, they will often meet face to face with a representative from the program/department to address their concerns before the response letter is sent. These face to face meetings have proven to be very helpful for both the committee and the programs/departments.
 - d. Names of the plans and reports reviewed during the 2010 - 2011 academic year are listed at the end of this report.
 - e. One workshop was held on practical strategies to improve assessment. This workshop featured presentations by the programs/departments who won the last two assessment awards: Physical Therapy and Music. Dr. Kris Thompson (PT) and Dr. Jackie Wiggins (Music) presented on how their respective programs approach assessment and then facilitated a lively discussion offering practical tips and strategies to assist other programs and departments with their assessment efforts. The workshop was well attended and received positive feedback.
 - f. We are planning a workshop on survey design and implementation for fall 2011.

2. *To prepare an overall University Assessment Plan which meets the requirements of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and to consult with the staff of that Association, as appropriate, to insure that the Plan and its implementation continue to meet Association standards;*
 - a. The plan was updated in 2005/2006. NCA conducted a site visit in April 2009 that included a review of the university's assessment activities. The assessment committee continues to evaluate their processes and is making improvements as needed. During our last meeting, we discussed various ways to improve

marketing of the assessment award as well as various resources the UAC has to offer. Some of these strategies will be implemented in fall 2011.

3. *To advise and cooperate with the General Education Committee in planning and carrying out assessment of the University's general education program;*
 - a. In addition to the joint workshop held, the Director of Institutional Research and Assessment acts as a liaison and sits on both the AC and the GEC. She advises the AC of current GEC activities.

4. *To advise the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction, and the Graduate Council on the findings of the assessment program and their implications for specific program reviews and for maintaining and improving the quality of undergraduate and graduate instruction in general; and*
 - a. Copies of all response letters to plans and reports are sent to the relevant deans and to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. The Senior Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education is a member of the AC.

5. *To report to the University Senate and the Assemblies of the organized faculties on the findings of the assessment program and their implications for maintaining and improving the quality of undergraduate and graduate curricula and instruction at the University.*
 - a. This annual report serves as the Senate report on assessment findings for 2010 - 2011; a copy is also sent to each assembly.

Plans reviewed 2010-2011

1. Anthropology revised plan
2. Proposed BA in Creative Writing plan
3. Bachelor in Integrative Studies
4. Proposed Education Specialist in Early Education Intervention plan
5. Marketing
6. K-12 Art Education revised plan
7. Proposed Biomedical Science plan
8. Early Childhood revised plan
9. Revised DNP plan
10. Public Administration BS (held over until fall 2011 for final approval after revisions made by department)

Reports reviewed 2010-2011

1. Counseling
2. Modern Languages
3. Art History

4. Reading
5. Elementary Education BS & MAT
6. WGS
7. Social Work
8. Chemistry
9. English UG
10. K-12 Art Education
11. Bachelor in Integrative Studies
12. Philosophy
13. Environmental Science
14. MBA
15. MS in Electrical & Computer Science
16. MTD report
17. English MA
18. Education Leadership Ed Specialist
19. Education Leadership PhD
20. UG Math
21. Communication
22. Journalism
23. Finance
24. Liberal studies