

University Assessment Committee (UAC)
Annual Report 2005-06
9 February 2015

Members of the UAC: Walli Andersen (chair), Susan Awbrey, Vanessa Bard (Fall term), Rasul Chaudhry, Julie Granthen (Alumna), Eileen Johnson, Frank Lepkowski, Charles Marks, Linda Morrison, Carrie Motyka, Sandy Pelfrey, Jeanie Robertson, Laura Schartman, Maura Selahowski (Winter term), Bob Van Til, Floyd Willoughby. A student was named to the committee but never attended. Assessment Coordinator: Tom Giberson (Fall term). Support Staff: Kay Palmer

The UAC met 14 times, for 1 ½ hours each, during the 2005-06 academic year: the first meeting was on September 13, the last on May 1.

Highlights of the year's work:

- University Assessment Plan reviewed, revised, presented to the Senate, and posted on the Assessment website
- Reports and/or plans reviewed for 37 programs, including 3 proposed programs
- Workshops held
 - Linda Suskie, Executive Associate Director, Middle States Commission on Higher Education: "Using Embedded Assessment" and "Creating Effective Multiple Choice Tests" (13 October 2005)
 - Liz Barclay and Ken York, OU/SBA, "Assessment Decisions: What to Assess and What to Change Afterwards" (14 March 2006)
- Assessment Excellence Award established; 2005 award presented at Faculty Recognition Lunch April 2006. Award plaque ordered (to be placed in Kresge Library lobby).

The UAC's activities related to the "Senate's Charge to the Assessment Committee" in 2005-06 appear below.

Charge:

1. To coordinate and advise on the planning and implementation of assessment by academic units;

The UAC has distributed report due dates over a two year cycle, so reports for roughly ¼ of all programs are due each semester. Programs which still lack an approved assessment plan (and there are fewer and fewer of them) or which fail to submit reports timely are given due dates one calendar year later and reminded annually.

The UAC is beginning to consider the issue of approved plans which have become outdated. Both OU and NCA have evolved in understanding of assessment matters, with NCA now foregrounding student learning (in contrast to teaching), "continuous improvement" and the "feedback loop." Consequently, many plans which were approved and implemented over 10 years ago do not align with current NCA principles and practices. Since the UAC reviews each plan when it reviews a report, the UAC expects to consider approaches to re-authorizing plans or requesting revisions during the 2006-07 academic year.

Names of the program reports and plans reviewed during the 2005-06 year appear in the table at the end of this report.

Two workshops spotlighting assessment were held: in Fall, a consultant focused on practical matters for general education assessment; in Winter, two OU faculty spoke about their experience using assessment results to improve their program.

Planning for an annual Assessment Excellence Award was concluded (a multi-year project); the committee established guidelines for the award, which is funded by the Provost. Seven programs from the 2005 calendar year with outstanding reports and plans were nominated and reviewed by the committee: Communication; Dance; Human Resource Management; Music; Political Science; Psychology; and Wellness, Health Promotion, and Injury Prevention. Functioning as a committee of the whole, the UAC selected Psychology for the 2005 Award.

In July 2006, a team from OU will be attending the North Central Association Higher Learning Commission workshop “Making a Difference in Student Learning: Assessment as a Core Strategy”

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;

The University Assessment Plan has been in place for over 13 years; periodically the UAC reviews and updates the plan. In 2005-06, the UAC thoroughly updated the plan: it was restructured and reworded to incorporate North Central’s current emphasis, which is on both student learning and continuous improvement (note: this work actually began in 2004-05). At the 17 November 2005 Senate meeting, Walli Andersen presented the revised assessment plan, which is available at https://www2.oakland.edu/secure/oira/University_plan.doc. The PowerPoint presentation may be accessed through the Senate minutes from 17 November 2006 (and is also on the Assessment website).

3. To advise and cooperate with the General Education Committee [(GEC)] in planning and carrying out assessment of the University's general education programs;

The Director of Institutional Research and Assessment acts as liaison and sits on both the UAC and the GEC. She advises the groups on general education assessment.

4. To advise the 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;

Copies of all responses to assessment reports are sent to the relevant deans and to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Biennially (the next occasion will be Fall 2006) a report to the Provost identifies those programs whose assessment activities are “commendable,” those which are “making progress,” and those whose assessment status is

unacceptable. The Provost sends a letter to each program clarifying the status of its assessment activities.

The Assessment Steering Group, composed of the chair, the Director of Institutional Research and Assessment, the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, the Assessment Coordinator, and (when the position is filled) the Associate Provost met on November 10.

and

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.

This Annual Report serves at the Senate report on assessment findings for 2005-06; a copy is also sent to each Assembly.

Good and Welfare:

Due to concern about the amount of copying necessary for UAC members to review plans and reports, a program of e-transmission was implemented. Copies of all materials were sent electronically to each committee member, who could then download and/or print if s/he wished. Richard Fekel graciously provided the use of the OC data projector during UAC meetings so the e-copies could be projected on the screen. Thanks, Richard!

Programs reviewed 2005-06

| <i>program</i> | <i>plan</i> | <i>report</i> |
|--|-------------|---------------|
| <i>due 10/15/05 or earlier</i> | | |
| Art History | | X |
| Chemistry | X | X |
| Educational Leadership (MEd) | X | |
| English (BA) | | X |
| English (MA) | | X |
| Environmental Health | | X |
| Exercise Science | | X |
| Human Resource Management | | X |
| Journalism | X | |
| Liberal Studies (MALS) | X | |
| Linguistics | | X |
| Medical Laboratory Science | | X |
| Modern Languages and Literatures | | X |
| Nursing (BSN) | X | |
| Nursing (FNP, GNP, CNS, Nursing Ed., Nurse Anesthesia) | X | |
| Physical Therapy (MSPT) | | X |
| Physical Therapy (DScPT) | | X |
| Psychology | | X |
| Wellness, Health Promotion, & Injury Prevention | X | X |
| <i>due 2/15/06</i> | | |
| Accounting (MAcc) | X | |
| Anthropology | X | |
| Biological Sciences (BA/BS) | X | |
| Biological Sciences (MA/MS) | X | |
| Early Childhood (MEd) | X | |
| Economics | X | |
| Human Resource Development | X | |
| Medical Physics (PhD) | X | |
| Philosophy | X | |
| Physics (BS) | X | |
| Physics (MS) | X | |
| Occupational Health & Safety | | X |
| Sociology | | X |
| Special Education (MEd) | X | X |
| Women's Studies | X | |

Proposed programs reviewed 2005-06

| <i>other</i> | <i>plans only</i> |
|--|-------------------|
| International Relations (new program) | X |
| Nursing Practice (DNP) (new program) | X |
| Production and Operations Management (new program) | X |