University Assessment Committee (UAC)
Annual Report 2006-07
9 February 2015

Members of the UAC: Frank Lepkowski (chair), Susan Awbrey, Chris Clason (Fall term), Julie Granthen (Alumna), Eileen Johnson (Winter term), Madelyn Kissock, Keyu Li, Charles Marks, Shannan McNair, Fran Meuser (Winter term), Linda Morrison, Carrie Motyka, Laura Schartman, Maura Selahowski (Fall term), Bob Van Til, Sarah Webb (Winter term), Floyd Willoughby. A student was named to the committee but never attended. Superlative Support Staff at OIRA: Kay Palmer

The UAC met 14 times, for 1 ½ hours each, during the 2006-07 academic year: the first meeting was on September 13, the last on May 1.

Highlights of the year's work:
- Reports and/or plans reviewed for 30 programs, including 9 proposed new programs.
- Revision of the Assessment portion of the OIRA website to make it better organized and more user-friendly.
- Workshops held:
    1. Robby Stewart, Chair of the Psychology Department: "Assessment: How to Juggle Academic Freedom, Integrity, and Indifference" (20 November 2006).
    2. Mike Latcha, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Assessment Coordinator, School of Engineering and Computer Science: "Engineering an Assessment Program" (7 March 2007).
- Candidates for the Assessment Excellence Award reviewed and the 2006 Award presented to the Studio Arts program at Faculty Recognition Luncheon April 2007. 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 2006-07 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 in a timely manner are given due dates one calendar year later and reminded annually.

A striking feature of the committee's work this year was the number of new programs the review of whose assessment plans was driven by deadlines for Senate consideration of the proposed programs. The timing of some of these went better than others, but all programs by the time they were up for final approval by the Senate had assessment plans in place approved by UAC.

Names of the program reports and plans reviewed during the 2006-07 year appear in the table at the end of this report.

Two workshops spotlighting assessment were held, both drawing on the experience and success of academic units here at Oakland University. In our Fall workshop, the Psychology department's assessment program was the subject of candid exposition by the Chair Robby Stewart. He described the process by which his department arrived at an assessment process which won the Assessment Excellence Award for 2005, including a warts-and-all account of the difficulties involved in getting buy-in throughout the department as well as the conceptual issues of deciding what outcomes to assess in which courses, what to do the resulting data, and future directions for the program's evolution.

In the Winter semester, the Assessment Coordinator for the School of Engineering and Computer Science Mike Latcha gave a thoroughly engrossing overview of an approach to assessment that takes place at the School level while encompassing the particulars of the individual undergraduate degree programs. The process by which the SECS program came to be, the way it operates, and how the outcomes of the assessment process very directly drive the continuous revision and improvement of the undergraduate degree programs are quite impressive.

UAC members were compelled to acknowledge at a subsequent meeting that such an impressive school-wide assessment program should be eligible for consideration for the Assessment Excellence Award; thus far, we have only considered individual degree programs for the award, but clearly SECS has an outstanding assessment program in place and deserves to be considered for the award in the future.

The promotion of assessment to the University community at large via the Assessment Excellence Award continued with the selection of the Studio Art program as recipient of the 2006 award, presented by the Provost at the April 2007 Faculty Recognition Luncheon.

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;

In the previous year, 2005/06 under the leadership of then-chair Walli Andersen the UAC updated the plan, available at https://www2.oakland.edu/secure/oira/University_plan.doc.

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.

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 2006-07; a copy is also sent to each Assembly.

Programs reviewed 2006-07

program	plan	report
due 10/15/06 or earlier		
Educational Leadership (MEd)	X	X
Education Specialist (Ed Spec)	X	
Engineering & Computer Science (undergraduate programs)		X
English (BA)		X
English (MA)		X
History (BA)	X	
History (MA)	X	
Studio Art (BA)		X
Women's Studies (BA)		X
due 2/15/07		
Anthropology (BA)	X	
Early Childhood (MEd)	X	
Human Resource Develop.(BS)	X	
Liberal Studies (MLS)		X
Linguistics (BA)	X	
Nursing (BSN)		X
Nursing (MSN)		X
Political Science (BA)		X
Public Administration (BS)		X
Public Administration (MPA)		X
Special Education (MEd)		X

Proposed & New programs reviewed 2006-07

other	plans only
Acting (BFA)	X
Applied Health Sciences (BS)	X

Art Education K-12	X
Computer Science & Informatics(PhD)	X
Dance (BFA)	X
Engineering Biology	X
Music Education (PhD)	X
Musical Theatre (BFA)	X
Social Work (BSW)	X