

University Assessment Committee (UAC)

Annual Report 2016-2017

May 8th, 2017

Members: Kevin Laam (Chair), Rob Nehmer, Barbara Joyce, Laura Schartman, Mary Sloan, Maura Selahowski, Rajeev Singhal, Richard Olawoyin, Shawn McCann, Stephanie Vallie, Wallis Andersen, Kent Ko, Mary Stein, Dorin Drignei, Miles Brown

Support staff at OIRA: Reuben Ternes

Highlights of the year's work:

- Reports and/or plans reviewed for 32 programs, including assessment plans for two new programs in Dance and Music.
- Initiated a plan to integrate and streamline general education capstone reporting alongside of program reporting to reduce reporting burden for departments while also improving reporting of assessment activities within general education.

Events held:

Two faculty development opportunities were offered to OU faculty this year.

- Notes from the Field (February 9th)
 - Event Description: "UAC Notes from the Field is your opportunity to learn about the ins and outs of program assessment. Two programs with a strong track record of assessment practices lead a lunchtime workshop on their experiences performing assessment. Presentations will be followed by discussion and Q & A. This year, the School of Medicine and the Criminal Justice program will deliver presentations."
- Assessment Open House (January 26th)
 - The Assessment Open House is designed for OU faculty to answer questions about the review of their assessment plans or report and to answer questions about linking student learning outcomes to assessment. OU faculty meet with UAC members and can ask program specific questions in an informal setting.

Assessment Award:

- Awarded to Writing & Rhetoric this year

The Assessment Committee's activities related to the "Senate's Charge to the Assessment Committee" in 2016-2017 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 that still lack an approved assessment plan (of which there are very few) or 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 the option of meeting with individuals from the UAC directly. 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 2016–2017 academic year are listed at the end of this report.
 - e. An "open house" workshop was held in January for representatives of university programs and departments to work directly but informally with UAC members. Attendees shared their experiences with the assessment process asked a variety of questions about performing and improving assessment practices. The event was low key and supportive of faculty members in attendance, which served to enhance good will between the UAC and university programs.

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.
 - b. Our new plan template for external programs maps directly to the HLC language. Programs with external accreditation that have direct corollaries with the HLC language are allowed to use their accreditation process to satisfy UAC requirements. Programs that do not meet all of the HLC expectations must use the normal UAC assessment process. This helps streamline the process for both the UAC and for programs with

external accreditation.

3. *To advise and cooperate with the General Education Committee in planning and carrying out assessment of the University's general education program;*
 - a. One OIRA member (the Director of OIRA) sits on both the UAC and the GEC and acts as a liaison, providing valuable insight to both committee and apprising each committee of the other's work.
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 UAC.
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 2016-2017; a copy is also sent to each assembly.

Plans & External Mappings reviewed 2016–2017

1. Ed Leadership
2. Finance
3. Creative Writing
4. Music – BM in Piano (New Program)
5. Biomedical Diagnostic & Therapeutic Sciences – All Programs except RAD
6. Biomedical Diagnostic & Therapeutic Sciences – RAD, External Mapping
7. Public Relations
8. Dance – BFA in Dance Education (New Program)
9. Wellness, Health Promotion, & Injury Prevention
10. Modern Languages
11. Ed. Specialist – External Mapping
12. Teacher Leadership
13. Computer Science (PhD)
14. Mechanical Engineering (Masters & PhD)
15. Teacher Development & Educational Studies – Multiple Programs, External Mapping

16. Political Science

Reports reviewed 2016–2017

1. Political Science
2. Finance
3. Early Childhood
4. General Management
5. Communication
6. Biomedical Diagnostic & Therapeutic Sciences – All Programs
7. Reading (Masters)
8. Psychology (Masters, PhD)
9. Medical Physics (PhD)
10. Wellness, Health Promotion, & Injury Prevention
11. English
12. Studio Art
13. Physics (Masters)
14. Counseling
15. Journalism
16. Sociology
17. Music (All Levels)