

Assessment Committee (AC)
Annual Report 2008-09
31 May 2009

Members: Shannan McNair (chair), Susan Awbrey, Sadi Bazaz, Aaron Bird, Lisa Dalton (Fall) Julie Granthen (Alumna), Eileen Johnson, Beth Kraemer, Keyu Li (Fall), Fran Meuser, Carrie Motyka, Pat Piskulich, Ghassan Saed (Fall), Laura Schartman, Maura Selahowski, Sankar Sengupta (Winter), Bob Van Til . Two students were named to the committee but one never attended, and one student attended one meeting.
Support Staff at OIRA: Kay Palmer

The Assessment Committee met 14 times, for 1 ½ hours each, during the 2008-09 academic year, from September to April.

Highlights of the year's work:

- Reports and/or plans reviewed for 41 programs, including one proposed new program (Cinema Studies).
- UAC teams continued to meet with units face-to-face as needed to support plan and report development
- The Assessment Committee portion of the OIRA website was updated.
- Initiated use of the ePortfolio on Moodle for committee members to view work in progress and work completed.
- Cathy Cheal conducted a training session for AC members on ePortfolio use.

Workshops held:

1. November 12th, 2008 Diverse Approaches to Assessment presented by Andrea Eis and Mike Latcha
2. March 24th, 2009 Electronic Portfolios II presented by Cathy Cheal, Carrie Motyka, Scott Crabill and Aaron Bird.
3. Candidates for the Assessment Excellence Award reviewed and the 2008 Award presented to the Music program at Faculty Recognition Luncheon April 2009. Award plaque ordered (to be placed in Kresge Library lobby).

The Assessment Committee's activities related to the "Senate's Charge to the Assessment Committee" in 2008-09 appear below.

Charge:

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

The Assessment Committee 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 (of which there are now very few) or which fail to submit reports in a timely manner are given the next due date and reminded.

When a unit receives a letter responding to their plan or report, they are given names of two members of the AC to contact with questions or concerns. In addition, before the response letter is sent the AC committee members follow up with units and arrange to meet with them in person when there are questions or concerns. This face-to-face assistance provides a positive “face” or “faces” to the AC and resulted in improved plans and reports in 2008-2009. Names of the program reports and plans reviewed during the 2008-09 year appear in the table at the end of this report.

Two assessment workshops were held; one was Diverse Approaches to Assessment presented by Andrea Eis and Mike Latcha and the other a follow-up with Cathy Cheal on using ePortfolios along with experienced OU faculty.

In the first workshop, Andrea Eis from Studio Art and Mike Latcha from Engineering were from units receiving the Assessment Award in 2007 and 2008. They described their approaches to assessment and discussed how assessment can look very different but still be effective in meeting program and institutional needs.

In the second workshop, co-sponsored by the Teaching and Learning Committee, Cathy Cheal and the faculty panel, Carrie Motyka, Scott Crabill and Aaron Bird described ways they use the Moodle tool, the ePortfolio, for unit assessment purposes. Faculty from units using or planning to use the ePortfolio tool for unit assessment discussed its use and provided ideas for units considering portfolios for assessment. Each of the workshops was well attended and positively evaluated by participants.

Assessment Committee members chose the Music Program for the 2009 Assessment Excellence Award, presented by the Provost at the April 2009 Faculty Recognition Luncheon. Other programs nominated for consideration for the award were Modern Languages, K-12 Art Education and the Education Specialist in Education Leadership. Once again, all the nominated programs demonstrated high quality assessment and reporting.

The Assessment Committee sponsored conference attendance at the Assessment Institute at IUPUI in October by Carrie Motyka, Aaron Bird and Eileen Johnson.

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 2005/06 under the leadership of then-chair Walli Andersen the AC updated the plan, available at https://www2.oakland.edu/secure/oira/University_plan.doc. NCA conducted a site visit in April 2009 that included a review of the university’s assessment activities.

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 AC 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. The Senior Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education is a member of the committee.

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 as the Senate report on assessment findings for 2008-09; a copy is also sent to each Assembly.

Plans reviewed 2008-09

<i>program</i>
MA in English
School of Business Administration core curriculum and Master's in Business Administration
MS in Electrical and Computer Engineering
MS in Systems Engineering
Computer Science –three master's programs reviewed
Bachelor of Integrative Studies
Revised Studio Art
Revised Art History
Undergraduate Mathematics
Counseling
PhD in Engineering programs
Teacher Development and Educational Studies

Reports reviewed 2008-09

<i>program</i>
Undergraduate Mathematics report
Undergraduate Computer Engineering report
Undergraduate Electrical and Computer Engineering
Undergraduate Mechanical Engineering
K-12 Art Education
Women's Studies
Undergraduate ISE
Undergraduate English
Education Leadership Ed Specialist
Marketing
Education Leadership PhD
Economics
Environmental Science
MSITM Learning Assurance
Undergraduate History
Early Childhood PhD
Undergraduate Nursing
Liberal Studies
Master's in Public Administration
BA in Political Science
BS in Public Administration
Journalism
Early Childhood Master's
Master's in Safety Management
Occupational Safety and Health
Finance
Human Resource Development
Graduate Nursing

Proposed & New programs reviewed 2008-09

<i>Other</i>	<i>plans only</i>
Cinema Studies	X

Plans for the 2009-2010 year include:

- An Assessment Committee newsletter each year highlighting effective plans and reports, assessment strategies, and resources
- Continuing the face-to-face teams working with units on plans and reports

- Use of Moodle to conduct committee work where each member of the committee can view plans and reports submitted and submit their review; a step toward a more “paperless” meeting format.
- A research project involving the examination of data from reports from recent years to determine the assessment trends at OU with regard to what works well and what does not.
- Conduct a workshop based on expressed needs for assessment
- Write an article (a collaboration by all interested committee members) for submission to Assessment Update or similar publication. Disseminate article on OU campus.