

Assessment Committee (UAC)

Annual Report 2011-2012

May 3rd, 2011

Members: Aaron Bird (Chair), Tanya Christ, David Kidger, Austin Murphy, Reuben Ternes, Maura Selahowski, Sankar Sengupta, Bob Van Til, Susan Awbrey, Graham Cassano, Beth Kraemer, Cynthia Miree-Coppin, Laura Schartman, Marilyn Mouradjian, Pat Piskulich

Support staff at OIRA: Reuben Ternes

Highlights of the year's work:

- Reports and/or plans reviewed for 32 programs, including six new proposed programs (M. Ed. in Higher Ed, BA in Criminal Justice, PhD in Computational Physics, PhD in Psychology, MS in Psychology, and BA in Graphic Design,)
- UAC teams continued to meet with departments and programs face-to-face as needed to support plan and report development

Events held:

- October 5, 2011: Collective Wisdom: Designing Surveys for Use in Assessment (Workshop)
- January 17th-18th, 2012: Assessment Support Open House (Open House)

Assessment Award:

- The 2011 Assessment Award winner was Journalism
- This year's other nominee was Dance

The Assessment Committee's activities related to the "Senate's Charge to the Assessment Committee" in 2011-2012 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 2011-2012 academic year are listed at the end of this report.
 - e. One workshop was held on strategies to improve the use of surveys when doing them for the purposes of assessment. This workshop featured expert members of the OU community that commonly deal with surveys from a wide variety of areas. The workshop was well attended and received positive feedback.
 - f. An "open house" workshop was held in January of 2012 for representatives of university programs and departments to work directly, but informally with UAC members. The event was held over two days and was very well attended. There were two primary benefits from this workshop. First, draft versions of assessment plans and reports were given a 'first look' by UAC members so that suggestions for improvement could be incorporated by program representatives before a final draft was officially submitted to the committee. Second, 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. 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. It is our goal to further review the UAC plan template and discuss possible future implementation of a more user-friendly approach.
 3. *To advise and cooperate with the General Education Committee in planning and carrying out assessment of the University's general education program;*
 - a. Two OIRA members (one of which is the Director of OIRA) sit on both the UAC and the

GEC and act as liaisons, 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 2011-2012; a copy is also sent to each assembly.

Plans reviewed 2011-2012

1. Systems Engineering (PhD)
2. M. Ed. in Higher Ed
3. Computer Science & Informatics (PhD)
4. Nursing (UG)
5. Nursing (MSN)
6. Nursing (DNP)
7. Criminal Justice
8. Psychology (PhD)
9. Psychology (MS)
10. Industrial & Systems Engineering (MS)
11. Graphic Design
12. Biomedical Diagnostics and Therapeutic Sciences
13. Computational Physics
14. Public Administration

Reports reviewed 2011-2012

1. Sociology
2. Dance
3. Exercise Science
4. Physics (MS)
5. Physics (PhD)
6. Nursing (UG)

7. Nursing (MSN)
8. Nursing (DNP)
9. Occupational Safety and Health
10. Marketing
11. Accounting (UG)
12. Accounting (MA)
13. Industrial & Systems Engineering (MS)
14. Mechanical Engineering (MS)
15. Early Childhood Education (M. Ed.)
16. Early Childhood Education (PhD)
17. Physics
18. Special Education