

University Assessment Committee (UAC) Annual Report 2020–2021 (Draft)

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Support staff at OIRA: Reuben Ternes

Highlights of the year's work:

- Reviewed 36 assessment plans and reports, including several plans for new programs (Physician Assistant Science, MSW in Social Work, and Health Systems).

Professional Development Opportunities:

1. Due to COVID, most of the UAC's normal professional development opportunities were suspended. The UAC has taken some initial steps in creating additional opportunities for next year however.

Assessment Award:

This year, the UAC awarded the assessment award to the School of Business Administration's undergraduate capstone course in MGT 4350. This report was notable for its exceptional quality, its voluntary nature, and its integrated approach that also incorporated General Education assessment. An honorable mention was given for the BA in Studio Art program.

The Assessment Committee's activities related to the "Senate's Charge to the Assessment Committee" in 2018–19 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. Department chairs receive a reminder each semester of any upcoming assessment reports for programs in their unit.
 - 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. The names of the programs of the plans and reports reviewed during the academic year are listed at the end of this report.
 - e. Though not held this year due to COVID, the UAC usually hosts an annual “open house” workshop for representatives of university programs and departments, giving them a chance to work directly but informally with UAC members. Attendees share experiences with the assessment process and ask questions about performing and improving assessment practices. The event is low key and supportive of faculty members in attendance, which serves to enhance good will between the UAC and university units.
2. *To prepare an overall University Assessment Plan which meets the requirements of Higher Learning Commission 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 overall university assessment plan was last revised and approved by the Senate in April 2018. The assessment committee will continue to evaluate their processes and make improvements as needed.
 - b. Our 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 GEAC and acts as a liaison, providing valuable insight to both committees and apprising each committee of the other's work. The GEAC committee
 - b. Beginning in 2017–18, the UAC has assumed responsibility for reviewing reports integrating gen ed capstone and program assessment. The UAC informs the GEAC on the status of any integrated reports as well as any feedback that UAC has on such reports.
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.

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 2020-2021; a copy is also sent to each assembly.

Plans & External Mappings reviewed 2020-2021

1. Nutrition (External Mapping)
2. Health Systems (New Program)
3. Social Work (MSW, New Program)
4. Nursing (External Mapping)
5. Early Childhood (M.Ed.)
6. Chemistry (Masters)
7. Chemistry (PhD)
8. Physics (UG)
9. Marketing
10. Environmental Health & Safety
11. Computational Physics (PhD)
12. Engineering Management
13. Medical Physics (PhD)
14. Human Resource Management
15. Public Administration
16. Wellness & Health Promotion
17. Physician's Assistant Science (New Program)

Reports reviewed 2020-2021

1. General Management
2. Mathematics (UG)
3. Engineering Management
4. Journalism
5. Communication (UG)
6. Psychology (Grad)
7. Medical Physics (PhD)
8. Human Resource Management
9. Art History (Integrated Report)
10. SBA Management Capstone (Special Report)
11. Public Administration (Integrated)
12. History (Masters)
13. Systems Engineering (PhD)
14. Literacy (PhD)

15. Human Resource Development
16. Exercise Science (Masters)
17. Nursing (PhD)
18. Wellness & Health Promotion
19. English (UG)