

## University Assessment Committee (UAC)

### Annual Report 2015-2016

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Members: Rob Nehmer (Chair), Barbara Joyce, Laura Schartman, Shannan McNair, Kristin Landis-Piwowar, Mary Craig, Mary Sloan, Maura Selahowski, Rajeev Singhal, Richard Olawoyin, Shawn McCann, Stephanie Vallie, Wallis Anderson, Kevin Laam, Kent Ko

Support staff at OIRA: Reuben Ternes

Highlights of the year's work:

- Reports and/or plans reviewed for 27 programs, including an assessment plan for three new programs, Cybersecurity, a DNP in Anesthesia, and an Ed. D. in Organizational Leadership.
- Submission of the Excellence in Assessment designation from the NILOA (see below)

Events held:

Three new faculty development opportunities were offered to OU faculty for the first time this year.

- Notes from the Field (March 24<sup>th</sup>)
  - Event Description: *'Come join your colleagues for a presentation about what works (and what doesn't) when implementing actual program assessment plans. Learn what your colleagues did to change process, organization, and implementation all in an effort to improve student learning.'*
- Simplifying Assessment (February 9<sup>th</sup>)
  - Event Description: *'Assessing student learning doesn't have to be complicated! Learn how to simplify the process of assessment so that it's not only simple, but effective and meaningful too.'*
- Assessment Open House (February 4<sup>th</sup>)
  - 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 Counseling this year

## Excellence in Assessment

- Drafting of the draft document for this award was led by the UAC chair and other committee members. The purpose of the award is best stated in an excerpt from its application document: “The Excellence in Assessment (EIA) designations are designed to recognize campuses that are successfully integrating assessment practices across campus to provide evidence of student learning outcomes that are representative of all students who attend their institution.”

The Assessment Committee’s activities related to the “Senate’s Charge to the Assessment Committee” in 2015-2016 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 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 2015-2016 academic year are listed at the end of this report.
  - e. An “open house” workshop was held in February for representatives of university programs and departments to work directly, but informally with UAC members. There are 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.
  - 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 2015-2016; a copy is also sent to each assembly.

#### Plans & External Mappings reviewed 2015-2016

1. Early Childhood PhD
2. Communications (UG)
3. Cybersecurity (new program proposal)
4. Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership (new program proposal)
5. DNP in Anesthesia
6. All UG SECS programs (CE, EE, ISE, & ME)

7. Human Resources Management
8. Writing
9. Criminal Justice

Reports reviewed 2015-2016

1. Creative Writing
2. Industrial & Systems Engineering (MS)
3. Wellness, Health Promotion, & Injury Prevention
4. Mechanical Engineering (Masters)
5. Mechanical Engineering (PhD)
6. Marketing
7. Finance
8. Physics (UG)
9. Reading (MAT)
10. Higher Education Leadership
11. English (Grad)
12. Human Resources Management
13. Exercise Science
14. Electrical and Computer Engineering (Masters)
15. Math (UG)
16. Writing
17. Criminal Justice
18. Psychology