

Committee on Institutional Assessment
Thursday August 24, 2017, 3-4 PM
BA 524 Library

Minutes

Present: , Cindy Aamlid, Chris J. Anderson, Lori Baker, Jeff Beall, Scott Crowell, Diana Holmes, Kristin Kovar, Alan Matzner, Linda Nelson, Raphael Onyeaghala, Kathy Schaefer, Frank Schindler, Nadine Schmidt, Aimee Shouse, Kate, Dwight Watson, Matt Zabka

1. Check-ins

Jeff asked everyone to briefly talk about why they are interested in institutional assessment and how they got involved with the committee. There were a range of answers with some common threads. Some were appointed based on their positions. Some joined out of interest in the topic, and some were looking for ideas on where to go with their own assessment. Some asked to serve on the committee for various reasons. Several emphasized that they joined because they understood the value of assessment. Dwight mentioned the other “CIA” of “Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment” and how that relates to the committee’s activities. There was some discussion of the value of data and the big picture, and understanding a correlation between data points vs. a cause-effect relationship. Several cited the learning opportunities afforded by the committee. Aimee mentioned that she has a background in general education assessment that goes back to the beginning of her career.

There was a quick review of where we stand regarding membership. Overall the committee is in good shape despite missing representation in one or two areas.

2. Review minutes from Spring

Jeff thanked those who took minutes last Spring and sent the minutes to him. A motion was made, seconded, approved to accept those minutes. Nadine volunteered to take minutes for this meeting.

3. Liaison Network coordination with Assessment Academy Team – Jeff Bell

Jeff checked in with members about whether all Education subgroups being assessed separately or if there a common core amongst them. We also reviewed the assignment of CIA members to the program liaisons and program responsibilities to make sure all areas are covered in the most effective ways. For the benefit of new members, Dwight provided an update on where the programs are in the process and explained the background of the project. Frank will be joining Pam’s group (Chemistry), Kate will join Dwight/Jeff’s group (Fine Arts), and Kristin will move to Alan’s group (Ag programs).

4. LEP Rubrics and Universal Assessments – Dwight Watson

Dwight provided an overview of the process so far: the 7 student learning outcomes (SLOs), the decision to assess those through the lens of the programs, the Ad Hoc Assessment (AHA) teams, and how SLOs had been assessed within the liberal arts (in 100-200 level courses, but not initially in 300-400 level courses). These factors led to the project aligning LEP SLOs with program SLOs. The Provost asked for a quick check-in regarding whether there are universal assessments of the 7 LEP SLOs? Inventory: Critical Thinking – SMSU rubric; Communication-written – SMSU writing rubric; Communication-spoken – SMSU rubric; Moral reasoning – no; Informational literacy; Creative thinking – no, but there is a VALUE rubric; Physical and Social World – no; Civic engagement – yes, not an LEP rubric, but Scott and Christine have regular system. Diversity – VALUE rubric, and the AHA Team report should have a draft rubric as well.

5. Program Assessment Status reports/discussion – Jeff Bell/All

There were Assessment Academy Team retreats this summer. There was discussion on what the project was, and that the Team should focus on that project. Status letters are currently sent from the Assessment Academy Team. Status reports might then come back to CIA for programmatic learning outcomes. Where are we in looking at where each program is re: assessment? We haven't as a committee looked at this in a comprehensive way. Jeff feels we do need to focus on this. It seems like we move from one area to another and don't sustain the previous area. There is a need for the process to be cyclical and ongoing. The Assessment Academy Team has been doing some of this oversight and keeping a record of where people are in the process. Liaison teams should follow up with programs after status reports to keep efforts moving forward. The Assessment Academy project will go away eventually, and the CIA has to pick up those processes. There is a lot of variance around campus, in that some programs have been doing programmatic assessment for a long time, but are just starting on LEP assessment, some are in the beginning stages of both. Status report form should be included with the minutes. The Team is hoping to get next status reports out in September, with liaison work following in October. Liaisons are consultant, helping with the big picture and providing advice.

6. Brainstorm Work Plan for AY 17-18 – All

As we ran out of time, and members had other meetings to go to, this time will carry over to the next meeting. There was a review of some framework for the upcoming discussion: Our goal is an articulated understanding of assessment amongst the committee, and to share our understanding with others around campus. The CIA is tasked with developing a unified campus wide assessment plan, and that hasn't been progressing as well as it might. Jeff has created a document collecting all the processes that are currently happening so that we can consider how they all might fit together.

Questions are already coming up about the poster session at Assessment Day. Some people want to work on those now rather than later. This will also be an item for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine Purvis Schmidt

Status Report Template

To: Program Director, Department Chair, and Dean

From: Assessment Academy Team

Convener: Jeff Bell

Members: Ben Anderson, Scott Crowell, Betsy Desy, Pam Gladis, Alan Matzner, Dwight C. Watson

Re: Status Report on Assessment

Date: September 1, 2017

Thank you for submitting your Assessment Report to your Chair. This summer, the Assessment Academy Team reviewed the reports to collect university-wide information on assessment in preparation of our upcoming HLC Visit. This status report from the Assessment Academy is related to your program's assessment of the Liberal Education Outcomes you previously identified as being covered during coursework in your major.

As we read the reports, we wanted to make sure that each program received specific feedback on their progress. Captured below is your program's personal feedback:

Insert individualized feedback that includes comments pertaining to:

- Assessment cycle level designation
- Need for timeline
- Content coverage, move to situated assessments
- PQS: Praise, Questions, Suggestions

To assist you in your deliberations and future assessment work, the Committee for Institutional Assessment and the Assessment Academy Team have paired together once again to provide liaison support (See attachment). Please contact your lead liaison member for assistance. We will soon be scheduling times to meet with each program.