University Assessment Committee Minutes

April 25, 2014
Stroud 210
3:00pm

Attending: Sandra Eckard, Alberto Alegre, Paul Creamer, Jennifer White, Fernando Perez, Michael C. Sachs, John Robinson, Pamela Kramer-Ertel, Chris Dudley, Laura Waters, Debra Ballinger, Mike Jochen, Eugene Galperin, Tom Tauer, Sheila Handy, Joann Stryker, Chris Willis

Organization

Minutes from the previous full UAC meeting (dated March 27, 2014) were reviewed and approved.

Members are asked to take note of the following 2014-2015 meeting dates, which are all on Fridays:

- September 12, 2014  to  February 6, 2015
- October 17, 2014  to  March 20, 2015
- November 14, 2014  to  April 17, 2015

Membership

Joann Stryker proposed that the committee update its bylaws to create five at-large membership openings for those who have expressed an interest in joining but do not have the opportunity to fill a particular representative position. These new members could help breathe new life into the committee, as they are exciting and eager to join.

Paul Creamer formally proposed an amendment to the bylaws “to create up to five at-large seats for faculty and staff at ESU who wish to partake in the University Assessment Committee and its activities.” At-large members would serve three-year renewable terms, after which representative UAC members would review their participation/attendance to approve another term, if said members wish to remain involved. These members will be full, non-voting members.

The committee also discussed the importance of representative membership, and the participation of current UAC members. The committee bylaws say that if a member cannot attend, a representative should come in his or her place to count toward a quorum but not to vote. It was proposed in this meeting that after missing two consecutive meetings, the representative...
body should begin to reconsider who they appoint. There was discussion of a push for greater accountability through documenting attendance and communication somehow. Attendance and participation are especially important at the workgroup level, where most of day-to-day work happens.

**Workgroup Updates**

Each of the four workgroups provided updates on their ongoing projects.

**Institutional Assessment**

The Institutional-Level Assessment workgroup provided updates on the university’s ongoing institution-wide assessments. The final reminder for the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) was sent by Indiana University at Bloomington on April 1. Per the respondent list sent to ESU on April 7, 650 students had participated (273 freshmen, 377 seniors), making our final response rate 29.6%. Though a few more respondents could come in over the summer before Indiana University officially closes their administration, they do not expect many. This is an improvement over last year’s 23% response rate, and it was done in only four weeks versus an entire semester. The ETS Proficiency Profile ends May 2. At the time of this meeting, 316 seniors had participated. The goal was 300 eligible senior examinations.

ESU did fairly well on these two exams, however the Graduating Senior Survey presents a major stumble. As of this meeting, participation was only at 18.8%, and the survey was schedule to close at the end of the day April 25 (the date of this UAC meeting). This could be due to the loss of an important incentive that had been helpful in encourage senior participation in the past – preferred seating at graduation. Michael C. Sachs is investigating whether we can get that incentive back, while also looking at other options to increase response rates. Front row graduation reservations were proposed, as well as preferred parking or season tickets to an event of the winner’s choice. There was also discussion of combining the institutional graduating senior survey with departmental/program surveys in a modular form. The group will look into making next year’s survey more mobile friendly as well, possibly with the use of a QR code.

**Professional Development**

This semester the Professional Development workgroup put on some great workshops with not so great attendance. There was discussion of having a standard day of the month (for example, every 3rd Friday), and/or taking 20 minutes once a month at an already scheduled meeting (like the All University meeting or regular College meetings) to present results, ideas, etc. Publicity for these events also needs to be improved, and Chris Willis asks for the help of all faculty on campus to promote workshops in the coming academic year. There was also a proposal to provide certificates of attendance to encourage faculty to come – something to provide evidence of their own professional development. An Assessment Conference in early spring was also consider, though no firm plans were decided.

**General Education**

Chris Willis is taking over the VALUE rubrics pilot study following Joann’s departure. The randomized list of students was sent out just before this meeting.
MSCHE Monitoring Report

Tom Tauer presented an update from the MSCHE Monitoring Report writing team. The university learned a lot the last time around, and as such this time the process should go more smoothly. At the last meeting, the team set out a timeline, and confirmed draft dates and future meeting protocols. Program annual assessment reports and evaluations will be a major part of this report. These must get done to show sustainability of the university’s assessment plan and culture. General education will also be a significant portion of the report. As such, the UAC’s GE report will need to be updated. Chris Willis will accomplish this.

General Education Committee

The new proposed structure of ESU’s General Education program will be voted upon this semester. This is the basic framework of the program. Another vote will occur in the fall on the full program proposal.

Wrapping Up

The University Assessment Committee gives a fond farewell to its co-chair, Joann Stryker. We wish her the best of luck, and every happiness. Thank you, Joann!

Meeting adjourned.
National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) – CLOSED

NSSE asks students about their experiences with practices that are believed to impact engagement and success both in school and afterwards. These include academic challenge, learning strategies, campus environment, experiences with faculty, and learning with peers. PASSHE requires participation every two years, however this year is a small pilot study to test the survey’s mobile compatibility.

Administration began on February 25 with an email from Indiana University at Bloomington. Four reminders went out to students signed by President Welsh, with the final one on April 1. Per the respondent list sent to ESU on April 7, 650 students participated (273 freshmen, 377 seniors). Our final response rate is 29.6%. A few more participants could come in over the summer before they officially close it. ESU will receive results in August.

Proficiency Profile – ENDS MAY 2\textsuperscript{nd}

OIRA has been administering the Proficiency Profile since the end of January, and it is scheduled to end next Friday, May 2. This is a major institutional assessment, as it is one of our PASSHE performance measures. It also serves as a key assessment of several of our general education student learning outcomes. The weekly open lab times scheduled to accommodate faculty who are unable to allow us into the classroom:

\begin{itemize}
  \item Tuesdays at 2:00pm
  \item Wednesdays at 9:00am
\end{itemize}

April 29 and 30 are the final days for open labs. The totals for senior participation by college are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>Pending</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Management</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>123</td>
<td></td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\textbf{Total}</td>
<td>\textbf{316}</td>
<td>\textbf{14}</td>
<td>\textbf{330}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

334 tests have been administered, the majority of them in the classroom. Freshmen Proficiency Profile administration will begin later in the summer with an email invitation.

Graduating Senior Survey (GSS) – ENDS APRIL 25\textsuperscript{th}

The GSS is an opportunity for students to tell us about their experiences at ESU. Since the focus of the GE workgroup has been on Global Citizenship (SLO #1), this semester a question on that topic was added to the survey. It launched on Monday, March 24 at the Grad Fest in the University Bookstore. As of April 21, 150 students (out of the 796 who applied to graduate) have participated. Our response rate is currently 18.8%. A final reminder was sent on April 21, and this survey will close today, April 25.