UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
November 4, 2011
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM
Raynor Library Conference Room A

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE
Present: Ronco (Chair), Acord, Bardwell, Dooley, Halula, Hammer, Hernandez, Lephardt, MacBride, Meyer, Monahan, Nemer, Perez, Sutkiewicz, Taylor, Wolburg, Zanoni

The meeting was called to order at 9:03AM by Sharron Ronco, who introduced a new member, graduate student Michelle Nemer. Committee members introduced themselves. Kim Halula offered the reflection.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The minutes of the October 7, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously without correction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATIVE ITEMS

- Sharron Ronco reported on the IUPUI Assessment Institute Conference. Sharron felt the conference was worthwhile and shared information on a Lumina Foundation initiative, the degree qualification profile (dpq), which provides a framework for learning outcomes at the degree level. The profiles outline what students can do with a degree at an explicit level and define criteria that all students need to meet in order to graduate. Sharron will send a pdf of the model by email to committee members. A criticism of the model is that it is based on a framework which does not include general education. Other issues raised at the conference included digital portfolios, values rubrics, how to interest faculty in assessment, having consistent support for administration, lack of time for assessment, and how to make decisions based on data.

- Sharron also discussed looking at software at the IUPUI Assessment Institute Conference for assessment reporting. Sharron may explore Campus labs as Marquette already has modules on campus. A strength of campus labs is the ability to tie planning modules with the accreditation module. Rebecca Bardwell commented that they looked at assessment reporting programs in the past but they were not flexible enough to meet our needs at that time.

- The AAC & U General Education and Assessment Conference will be held in New Orleans February 23-25, 2012. Mike Monahan and Jon Dooley reported that past conferences have been helpful.

- Jon Dooley reported that the Online Survey Policy has been revised and is now posted. The policy is sensitive to the survey response burden placed on students. The committee tried to streamline the review process. Gary Meyer complimented and thanked Jon for his work on this committee.
• Jon Dooley discussed that they are looking at a campaign to disseminate survey or outcomes findings to students such as “You said, we listened” to share changes or modifications that resulted from student feedback.

CONTINUING

• Mike Monahan provided committee members with an update on assessing the Core of Common Studies. Mike discussed the complexity of assessing the core and how the committee is shifting to an assessment structure based on knowledge areas with a goal of covering all 9 knowledge areas over the course of 4 years. For upcoming year, the focus will be on Rhetoric and Math Reasoning. Sharron raised issue of asking each program leader at peer review seminar to determine if any existing program outcomes or measures could be cross referenced to these two knowledge areas. It was instead decided that Sharron would introduce this idea during the orientation to the peer review seminar.

• Sharron reported that information about assessment minigrants were sent to faculty via email and shared in news briefs. Graduate students are now eligible to apply for the grants. Sharron commented that we will have a short turnaround time to select award recipients. A discussion followed on the selection process. Sharron will send out a pdf of proposals to committee members on November 22nd. Sharron will create a scoring rubric for the proposals.

• Sharron led a discussion of upcoming the Peer Review Seminar. Sharron indicated that representatives from Lewis University requested to attend the Peer Review seminar. Sharron will notify program leaders of the guests and restrict Lewis University from taking copies of assessment reports. Sharron reported that she had questions that she wanted program leaders to answer at the seminar including if standards associated with learning outcomes set high expectations for students or if there is a need to alter or change learning outcomes. She would like for leaders to consider the types of assessment measures that they can utilize for assessing student outcomes. She would also like for programs to reflect if the program assessment results in useful, meaningful information to make decisions about student learning. It was suggested that Sharron send out proposed questions to program leaders in advance so they have an opportunity to prepare and reflect on the questions prior to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 10:38am.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Sutkiewicz, Recorder