Section 9.03 - The University Assessment Committee (revised March 21, 2011)
The University Assessment Committee is a committee of the Academic Division. The committee addresses and advances effective assessment of student learning at Marquette University.

Responsibilities:
1. Assisting and collaborating with the Provost and Vice Provosts to ensure ongoing systems of assessment including the:
   a. Development, implementation, and maintenance of the framework for university assessment systems;
   b. Development, implementation, and maintenance of learning assessment processes at the institutional level;
   c. Review of institutional and program level learning assessment reports;
   d. Recommendation of changes and modifications in the assessment processes as indicated.
2. Advising faculty, department, and colleges on assessment procedures and methods.
3. Recommending to and collaborating with the Center for Teaching and Learning to provide assessment workshops and seminars to aid faculty in assessment strategies.
4. Forwarding recommendations of the Committee to the UAS for feedback and to the Provost for approval.
5. Providing a written annual report to the UAS.

2013-14 Membership:

Sharron Ronco (Chair), Assessment Director
Rebecca Bardwell, College of Education
Patricia Bradford, Law School
Marilyn Bratt, College of Nursing
Jonathan Dooley, Office of Student Affairs (fall)
Toby Peters and Jodi Blahnik, Office of Student Affairs (spring)
Mark Federle, College of Engineering
Kim Halula, College of Health Sciences
Natasha Hansen, MUSG student representative
Tom Kaczmarek, Klingler College of Arts and Sciences
Noreen Lephardt, College of Business Administration
Laura MacBride, Office of Institutional Research
Michelle Nemer, Graduate Student Organization
John Su, Director of the Core Curriculum
Fred Sutkiewicz, School of Dentistry
Christine Harris Taylor, College of Professional Studies
Joyce Wolburg, Diederich College of Communication
Jean Zanoni, Raynor Memorial Libraries Representative
Meetings:

The UAC met 11 times; in addition, UAC members attended three assessment workshops.

Highlights of Committee Work and Accomplishments:

- Met with representatives of the HLC peer review team during their on-site visit for reaffirmation of accreditation, to answer questions and provide information about Marquette’s assessment process and history. The peer team’s report on assessment was very favorable, with no follow-up actions required.

- Sponsored the annual Peer Review Seminar, which brought together program assessment leaders from 125 academic and co-curricular programs to present results of their assessments and give feedback to colleagues.

- Reviewed learning outcomes, assessment plans, and requests for temporary suspension of assessment activity for six programs.

- Reviewed topics for professional development workshops for program assessment leaders; supported implementation.

- Began a comprehensive discussion of the “state of assessment” post-HLC, including:
  - Seeking clarification of the administrative mandate for assessment, and the future role of assessment in the University’s Strategic Plan and in the program review process;
  - Review of compensation, recognition and equitable distribution of labor for program assessment;
  - Expanding participation of programs without external accreditation, either through additional representation on the UAC or by convening a separate committee;
  - Documenting progress through the development and application of an assessment maturity model.

- Will review content for 2013-14 Institutional Assessment Report at its last (May) meeting.

Continuing Committee Business for 2013-14:

- The UAC will continue its review of the state of assessment, as described above, in 2014-15.

Recommendations:

The UAC continues to advocate for increased personnel resources to support assessment. In addition to its importance for regional and discipline accreditation, assessment is a fundamental condition for a culture in which learning is the priority. We believe that rigorous, ongoing and pervasive assessment is critical to advancing the University’s Strategic Plan goals for academic excellence and the continuous improvement of organizational effectiveness. The addition of either a full-time graduate assistant or a permanent staff position would provide necessary and consistent support for Marquette’s maturing assessment system.