

University Assessment Committee
April 19, 2013
Minutes

PRESENT: Patricia Bradford, Jon Dooley, Kim Halula, Thomas Kaczmarek, Noreen Lephardt, Laura MacBride, Michelle Nemer, Eva Soeka, Fred Sutkiewicz, Joyce Wolburg, Jean Zaroni

REFLECTION

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Sharron Ronco. Jon Dooley provided the reflection.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the March 22, 2013 were approved unanimously.

UPDATES FROM MEMBERS

Jon Dooley noted that the undergraduate senior survey is in progress and 40% of students have participated. Any final encouragement for greater participation would be much appreciated.

Marquette's Student Affairs groups will be hosting a Campus Labs World Tour Stop this summer. The date is not known yet, but it is expected to be in July or August.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Updates on HLC: Annual Conference and Recommendations from Consultants visit to campus**

Sharron Ronco attended the annual conference in Chicago, which included an all-day workshop for institutions preparing for accreditation visits. Sharron spoke about the process of the HLC visit, and noted that after the visit in fall 2013, the findings will not be known for several months because the visiting team does not write the report during the site visit. Once a draft of the report is written, it will be sent to MU for an opportunity for corrections and then is subject to further review. Peers from other institutions make up the team, who will likely be assigned different focus areas. The names of members are not yet known, but it is estimated that there will be 12-14 team members.

Sharron noted that the conference itself included some uneven presentations with some of the same people presenting year after year on same topic. Sharron also noted that MU was recognized for increased Hispanic graduation rate among the Hispanic student population, which came to her as a surprise because she didn't know that MU had been successful in improving the graduation rate for this group. Laura MacBride offered to check on this and report back.

Two peer reviewers (assessment directors at their institutions) were recently on campus to serve as consultants and review an early draft of our self-study. Their purpose was to provide feedback on how well prepared we are. These two consultants will not be among the actual reviewers, but their comments are believed to be a good indicator of how the actual team will respond. Their recommendation was to provide more data to close the loop for how assessment drives curriculum change. As a result, Sharron sent out an email this week to PALS to get examples across various programs. The goal is to better demonstrate improvement of student learning with these examples. Sharron indicated that she is getting good responses but needs more of them.

Another recommendation was to provide learning outcomes for all programs on a single document. Currently we have plans by programs within each college. Sharron will create a single document that will only be used by the visiting team. A final recommendation was to decrease the length of the self-study by about one third.

In response, UAS members asked how to prepare for the site visit. Sharron noted that she expects to get the final self-study soon (hopefully May-June) and will share it in order for us to be prepared.

Noreen asked various questions about the assessment of the university core, including how the core curriculum decisions are made with respect to the UAS. She noted that confusion exists for the current measurement of learning outcomes in specific courses in the Individual and Social Behavior area of the core. Noreen asked whether the measurement of those learning outcomes is intended to connect to the overarching LOs of the core or the specific knowledge area. Sharron indicated that the courses are currently being evaluated for their ability to meet the LOs of the ISB knowledge area rather than the core.

- **Status of assessment plans and reports still in need of help**

Sharron noted that some assessment plans and reports don't match. In some cases, the LOs in the report reflect changes that have not been updated in the assessment plans. In other cases when only a few LOs are measured in a given year, the remaining LOs are not shown. The reports need to show all LOs—not just those measured that cycle. Sharron went through the various colleges and identified corrections and missing information that are still needed for each program. She asked members to help get PALS to respond by May 15.

- **Aligning assessment reporting for programs with separate discipline accreditation**

Sharron addressed the issue of dual assessment plans/procedures for various colleges—one for the university and a different one for the accreditation of the

discipline. The goal is to make these two processes more similar so that colleges don't duplicate their efforts with two separate processes. She asked how the university assessment process can serve discipline accreditation in a way that minimizes workload and takes advantage of synergies. Given the differences across colleges, this may need to be explored for each unique situation.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

Sharron noted that her annual report to the senate is half completed. She also noted that the recommendation to the Provost for graduate assistant help has not yet been approved.

Sharron asked about unfinished business for next year. Noreen suggested we review the charter for UAS. Another concern is that the institutional LOs are not readily measurable and need to be reviewed.

A recommendation was made that Gary Meyer or John Pauly come to the UAS and talk about the role of assessment at the university, directional changes (after the HLC report). The UAS meets one more time in May.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Wolburg