

University Assessment Committee

September 16, 2016

Zilber Hall 470

Present: Jodi Blahnik, Marilyn Bratt, Karen Evans, Sarah Feldner, Stephen Guastello, Courtney Guc, Noreen Lephardt, Laura MacBride, Marta Magiera, Sharron Ronco (Chair), Karen Slattery, Fred Sutkiewicz, Pol Vandavelde, Baolin Wan, Brittney Wyatt

I. The meeting was brought to order at 9.00 AM. Sharron Ronco welcomed all members and in particular the new members. She thanked the committee and reminded them of the import of assessment for true excellence in teaching.

II. The minutes of the May 6th meeting were unanimously approved after a small correction was made (motion to approve: Karen Evans; second: Jodi Blahnik).

III. Updates from the Chair

- There will be fewer meetings than in previous years, but some work will be done in small committees outside regular meetings.
- Sharron Ronco reminded members that the University Assessment Committee has been placed under the responsibility of the vice-provost for strategic and academic planning.
- The 2015 Institutional Assessment Report has been sent to the deans and posted on the assessment website.
A discussion followed about the need to make this report more visible. Different suggestions were made:
 - a. To add a link to the report on Marquette main page so that visitors (such as parents) can immediately have access to the report.
 - b. To choose a name for the report that is directly recognizable by visitors of the page.
 - c. To consult with other institutions to find out what the best practices are
 - d. To focus first on the visibility of assessment within the university so that, for example, faculty can easily find specific program assessments. Departments already have a link on their website to their assessment programs.The Chair will examine what other institutions are doing and report to the committee. The discussion will continue.
- There will be two orientations for assessment leaders: Friday, September 23rd, 11:00-12:00 and Thursday, September 29th 3:00-4:00.
- The deadline for completing the 2015-16 program assessment report in ARMS is October 24, 2016.
- Sharron Ronco will participate in an HLC accreditation visit in the near future.

IV. Status of the Co-curricular assessment

Jodi Blahnik gave an update about the co-curricular assessment plan. The various departments that are considered co-curricular have been working together in order to find out how they can systematically identify outcomes. They have identified different domains and expect to complete the assessment plan during the Spring semester of 2017.

V. Update on the revisions of the Core

Sarah Feldner, Director of the Core Curriculum, gave an update of the revisions to the committee members. The new core is scheduled to be in effect in the academic year 2018-19.

A discussion followed about the judiciousness of continuing the assessment of the core and whether such an assessment should not be put on hiatus. Some worried about such an interruption given that the core will remain in place for the next two academic years.

A suggestion was made to continue the assessment of the knowledge areas but not as in the past. The departments responsible for the knowledge areas to be assessed could document what they are doing (for example, what works for them) and how they see their current practice fit in the anticipated new core.

Sharron Ronco and Sarah Feldner will report further progress of the revisions.

VI. Follow up with programs that have assessment “issues”

A document was shared that included the different programs that were on hiatus or had not submitted an assessment program report. Sharron Ronco had met with the people in charge of those programs. She will contact them again and ask for the help of the committee members if needed.

VII. Rating guide assignments for Spring 2017 program reviews

- At the last meeting it was decided that programs will be reviewed by UAC members (two members per program). UAC members are to review three years of assessment data using the Assessment Process Rating Guide. They will write an Executive Summary including recommendations.
- During the summer Sharron Ronco, Laura MacBride, and Jodi Blahnik met with representatives of the department of history and did the rating of their programs.
- A list of the programs and assigned rating teams was given to the committee members.
- Sharron Ronco will distribute a copy of the rating of the History programs to the members of the committee.
- The ratings by committee members is to be completed by the end of October. This matter will be discussed again at the next meeting.

VIII. Ideas for this year’s Peer Review

Sharron Ronco asked members for suggestions in order to make the Peer Review more efficient and attractive. She mentioned the fact that faculty like to have more time for discussion. It was suggested that such a discussion could include sharing what works well, how data are shared.

The discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

IX. Motion to adjourn: Jodi Blahnik; second: Baolin Wan
Meeting adjourned at 10:30

Respectfully submitted,

Pol Vandavelde