

University Assessment Committee
November 22, 2013
Approved minutes

Present: Rebecca Bardwell, Patricia Bradford, Jon Dooley, Mark Federle, Kim Halula, Natasha Hansen, Thomas Kaczmarek, Noreen Lephardt, Laura MacBride, Michelle Nemer, Sharron Ronco, John Su, Fred Sutkiewicz, Christine Harris Taylor, Joyce Wolburg.

Guest: Toby Peters

The meeting was called to order at 9:07. Jean Zanoni provided the reflection in absentia, "On the Farm," an excerpt from Dorothy Day's diary.

Approval of Minutes

Federle move to approve the minutes of the November 1 meeting as submitted. Lephart second. Motion passed unanimously.

Updates

Peters reported that the university has not heard back from HLC yet with the draft report, but the information is expected soon.

Peer Review Debriefing Feedback

Feedback about the peer review sessions on November 8 was solicited. Themes included:

- Concern that there may have been too many programs at a table (this was raised by several committee members). In some cases, tables ran out of time or cut the final program area short.
- Question raised as to what the accountability mechanism is or should be for programs that are still lagging with assessment. Ronco reported that department chairs will receive reports and peer review notes.
- Graduate education and programs with smaller numbers of graduates continue to experience challenges with assessment.
- Question raised about the potential value of grouping similar programs, or grouping by college. It was acknowledged that there are trade-offs to whatever system is used to assign tables. It was recommended that the logic for table assignments be shared with table facilitators in advance.
- Program assessment leaders should be encouraged to identify, in advance, a question or two (or problems/challenges) to guide the discussion of their program assessment report. PAL's could then identify how their peers at the table can be most helpful to them.
- Could programs/reports benefit from trend data, not just a snapshot of current year data?

- In the future, programs could be invited to indicate how their program has changed over the past five years as a result of assessment data and closing the loop

The conversation also included discussion of current critical issues/concerns for the assessment system at Marquette:

- How/whether to address the compensation and equitable distribution of labor for assessment at the university, with wide variation between colleges with resources and support for assessment
- Whether or not it is time for an audit of current assessment processes and structure; could university assessment be part of the academic program review process?
- How does assessment fit within expectations for faculty/staff daily roles

National Survey of Student Engagement

Dooley distributed the results of the spring 2013 NSSE instrument. Committee members were encouraged to review the information (also available online at <http://marquette.edu/dsa/assessment/NSSE-2013.shtml>) for future discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Dooley