University Assessment Council  
April 25, 2011, 3:00 p.m. 

Minutes 

Members Present: Drew Clark (Chair), Cecilia Champion, George Crandell, Greg Somers, Susan Hubbard, Jennifer Schuessler, Leonard Lock, Paul Patterson, Constance Relihan, Karen Rogers, Juliet Rumble, Tin Yau Tam, and Iryna Johnson.

Drew Clark called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

Minutes of the meeting held November 15, 2010 were distributed and approved as submitted.

Drew Clark updated the council on recent assessment grants and upcoming assessment events of assessment grant and the award approved during the last UAC meeting. An assessment grant approved by the Council in November helped to finance a trip of a faculty member to the Baccalaureate Program Directors (BPD) Conference “The Nuts and Bolts of BSW Education: From Basics to Competency Assessment.” In March of 2011, four Auburn University faculty members offered a professional development seminar for the Biggio Center, based on the Performance Task Academy they attended in Summer 2010 in New York, with support from a UAC assessment grant. In April 2011, four faculty members also attended the annual Assessment Institute at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, IN. Drew also informed the council about the upcoming AALHE conference that will be held in Lexington, KY on June 5-7, 2011 and the Performance Task Academy that will be held at Auburn two days before classes start in August.

Various members of the council offered brief updates on the status of assessment in their schools and colleges:

- Greg Somers informed the council about the progress with degree program assessment at School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.
- Leonard Lock described the implementation of Tk20 assessment system in College of Education and ways in which it helps with certain aspects of assessment, such as collecting information from cooperating teachers.
- Constance Relihan provided information about new assessment awards in College of Liberal Arts. Two faculty members—Elizabeth Brestan-Knight (Psychology) and Chase Bringardner (Theatre)—received the assessment award this year. The Dean of the College also sponsors “free lunch awards” for Provost-mandated departmental assessment meetings.
- Tin Yau Tam provided an update on the Dean search in the College of Sciences and Mathematics. The finalists for Dean are paying special attention to assessment issues. Tin Yau also mentioned that the Department of Mathematics is working on GTA training that was suggested by a consultant who reviewed the department’s work. Cecilia Champion provided an update on degree program assessment in College of Business, which will now include some specific learning goals for each concentration within the BSBA degree (Accounting, Marketing, Finance, etc.)
In response to a question from Cecilia, the council briefly discussed issues related to preparing an accurate faculty roster for SACS. Potential exceptions to cases when course prefix does not reflect the discipline of a course were discussed. In case of such exceptions, the course number and discipline of a course should be provided on SACS Credentials screen in Digital Measures.

Drew Clark provided an overview of recent changes in NSSE. The NSSE publication “Major Differences: Examining Student Engagement by Field of Study” was distributed to members of the council. Drew also provided an update about Collegiate Learning Assessment at Auburn. Recently raising juniors who were tested in Fall of 2009 have been retested.

Drew Clark provided updates about other student learning assessment initiatives on campus. General Education committee currently reviews assessment results from Core Curriculum classes. The University Writing Committee is working on adding writing component to each undergraduate program. The QEP Exploratory Committee is in the process of selection of proposals for Auburn Quality Enhancement Plan. The importance of coordination between these assessment initiatives and degree program assessments was emphasized.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.