University Assessment Council
March 8, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Minutes

Members Present: Drew Clark (Chair), Vince Cammarata, Cecilia Champion, George Crandell, Susan Hubbard, Paul Jungnickel, Abbygail Langham, Lenny Lock, Ed Loewenstein, Nels Madsen, Karen Rogers, Juliet Rumble, Jenny Schuessler, and Iryna Johnson.

Guests Present: David Adams

Drew Clark called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes from the last UAC meeting on January 22, 2013 were approved.

Juliet Rumble provided an update on the status of an assessment grant submission from the College of Human Sciences. The subcommittee involved three UAC members: Vince Cammarata, Karen Rogers, and Juliet Rumble. The decision of the subcommittee was not to fund the assessment grant. The specific concerns of the subcommittee included: the learning outcomes addressed in the grant proposal are too general and few details are provided as to how results will be used for improvement. Some subcommittee members also do not support funding student certification exams with assessment grant money. A brief discussion of use of grant funding for student certification exams suggested that certification exams should not be funded by assessment grants unless there is a clear evidence of use of results for improvement and indication that this assessment will be sustainable without additional grant funding.

Iryna Johnson provided an update on the status of assessment software selection for Auburn University. A subcommittee consisting of five UAC members—Abby Langham, Dan LaRocque, Lenny Lock, Nels Madsen, and Iryna Johnson—conducted a survey of current users of assessment software. The survey suggested that the most important features for the new software are: ease of use; ability to customize assessment reports and assessment fields for a unit, department, or college needs; ability to upload and download documents; customer support; ability to file all assessment reports (programmatic, university core, writing, etc.) in one place; and ability to access the system via Auburn University portal. About 21% of respondents felt that familiarity with the system was important to them. The subcommittee also reviewed the systems used by Auburn’s peer institutions. Based on the review and survey, the subcommittee viewed demonstrations by three assessment software systems: Weave Online, Campus Labs, and Tk20. The subcommittee will provide a recommendation to the University Assessment Council before April 15th.

Drew Clark provided information about an upcoming visit of SACSCOC On-Site Peer Evaluation team on March 25th – March 28th.
Iryna Johnson provided information on new assessment resources at Auburn University. Auburn University’s Graduate School launched the new survey of graduating graduate students. Because the survey is embedded within the application for graduation, the response rates are higher. This survey also provides a possibility to separate responses by department, major, and degree code. Therefore, we can generate reports by department and include department specific questions in the survey. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment is currently working on exit survey reports for undergraduates by department. NSSE reports by department have been completed. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment is also testing a possibility to provide video tutorials for NSSE reports. The links to the tutorials as well as a link to the feedback on those tutorials will be sent to UAC members shortly after the meeting. Finally, the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment is considering launching video tutorials on different assessment topics. These tutorials would start with review of existing program reports and provide suggestions on ways to conduct assessment in cited programs. The first tutorial covers Alignment Study or Curriculum Mapping and will be sent for review by UAC members shortly after the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.