University Assessment Council  
May 1, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Minutes

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

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

Minutes from the last UAC meeting on March 8, 2013 were approved.

Iryna Johnson provided a brief summary of the report of the subcommittee charged to recommend new assessment software for Auburn University. The subcommittee viewed demonstrations of three assessment software systems: Weave Online, Campus Labs, and Tk20. The subcommittee recommended Campus Labs as the best software option for Auburn. Members of the University Assessment Council approved licensing Campus Labs for Auburn.

Drew Clark provided an update on the March SACSCOC reaffirmation visit. The rest of the meeting was devoted to discussing how Auburn will respond to the report of the reaffirmation committee and specifically to the four recommendations Auburn received under the standard for institutional effectiveness. As described in Auburn’s February 2013 Focused Report, that response will include new support personnel, enhanced department-level survey information and enhanced feedback and accountability mechanisms. An external review of how Auburn is organized to support the interrelated functions of institutional research, institutional effectiveness, and accreditation management is also proposed in the plan.

New support personnel: Through internal reallocation, OIRA will add one new assessment analyst in FY2014. In the Division of Student Affairs, Abby Langham became Director for Assessment and Strategic Planning, a new position, in FY2013.

Enhanced survey information: Iryna Johnson provided information on enhanced survey support that OIRA is now able to provide academic programs and departments for assessment. OIRA has posted to its web site department-level summaries of two institutional surveys:

- Survey of Graduating Seniors, by Department, 2011-12 (login required) 
  (https://oira.auburn.edu/exitsurveyreports/ExitSurveyReports_DEPT1112.aspx)

- National Survey of Student Engagement Cumulative Results, by Department, 2002-2012 
  (https://oira.auburn.edu/assessment/NSSEReports_DEPT.aspx)
Survey of Students Soon to Receive Graduate Degrees was launched in Spring 2013.

Departments can request frequency distributions at the program- or department level from 2012-13 surveys of graduating students (both undergraduate and graduate). Departments can also request department-specific frequency distributions from the survey of 2009-2010 baccalaureate degree recipients. All of these surveys are still in the field.

Effective Summer 2013, departments will also be able to incorporate their own program- or department specific questions into the surveys of graduating students, if they so desire. Proposed questions for the Summer 2013 surveys must be received before July 1, 2013 and may be submitted by email to oira@auburn.edu.

Enhanced feedback and accountability mechanisms: For starters, Drew Clark proposed visits during Summer 2013 with department chairs or other appropriate representatives of each department in order to discuss and provide feedback on recent assessment reports. Drew Clark and Iryna Johnson would go to each of these meetings. Drew also asked members of the University Assessment Council whether they would like to participate in these meetings. Members of the University Assessment Council supported the idea and expressed willingness to participate in these meetings. Cecilia Champion suggested that in some colleges it might make sense to have meetings with assessment coordinators or Associate Deans rather than with all departments separately. It was agreed that each college will have individual plan for these meetings. And, in some colleges individual meetings with departments might be replaced with group meetings.

Looking beyond these immediate plans, Drew Clark suggested ongoing ways to enhance feedback to departments on their assessment work. Options include peer-to-peer feedback, college-level feedback organized by deans, UAC feedback with support from professional staff in OIRA, or a combination of several feedback mechanisms. Feedback mechanisms that already exist at colleges were briefly discussed. Susan Villaume expressed interest in sharing experiences from different colleges. UAC members decided to continue discussion of different feedback and accountability mechanisms at the next meeting.

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