



The University Assessment Council

Minutes

August 28, 2018

210D Reese Phifer

Attendance: Jon Acker, Viola Acoff, Ginger Bishop, Chris Coleman, George Daniels, Sarah Fitzgerald, Holly Hallmann, James Hardin, Ronnie Jackson, Robin Lawson, Grace Lee, David Mothersbaugh, Mary Kay Meyer, Heather Pleasants, Lesley Reid, Cecil Robinson, Tim Salazar

- Ginger B. updated the UAC on the General Education Task Force, which should be announced shortly after Labor Day. It is expected that there will be one rep per College (plus the steering group). The work will be extensive, and faculty/staff from a variety of units (ADPs as well as student support/success units) will be asked to serve on subcommittees as things evolve.
- Ginger B. provided a schedule for the 9/14 visit from Elon College reps (related to their much-publicized Extended Transcript program). UAC members were invited to attend any of the sessions, all of which will be informal and open to the public. A suggestion was made that at least one of the sessions be videotaped. Dave M. reported that Culverhouse has begun using Suitable to track/document experiential learning.
- Jon Acker gave an update on the OIRA-administered graduation/exit surveys. Data from Spring 2018 has been collected and is being compiled in a new, web-based report. That work is not quite complete due to other high-priority projects given to OIRA over the summer, but the web-based report is expected to be available in the next 2 weeks (some programs/units pull program assessment data from the surveys).
- Robin L. asked a general question about whether the Colleges have internal benchmarks or targets for SOI ratings. Only Nursing and Engineering appear to; several people talked about why that's probably the case (bias/validity issues; response rates).
- Heather P. and Ginger B. gave an update on the NSSE, which will be administered (including the Inclusiveness and Engagement with Diversity module) in Spring 2019 to a sample of freshmen and seniors. This will allow us to compare pre- and post-QEP trends related to experiential learning, and more generally inform the campus about relative strengths and weaknesses in our students' engagement/impression of UA. It was noted that Student Life (formerly Student Affairs) has already done an internal audit of their own use of high-impact practices (HIPS) related to student engagement/success. Academic Affairs needs to do one as well (connections to Gen Ed Task Force).

- On the assessment front, four Psychology BS/BA faculty recently attended a luncheon with Provost Whitaker and Associate Provost Han to celebrate their winning of the 2018 Provost's Assessment Award (based on a UAC vote). They have worked hard on their assessment process and appreciated the recognition. The Award will be offered again this year. <https://oie.ua.edu/provosts-award>
- The annual orientation for new (ADP) assessment coordinators was held in late August. In addition to several new ACs, two veteran practitioners (Joyce Meyer and Bev Roskos) were on hand to share their expertise and advice. The session focused on assessment practice (rather than reporting), so the new ACs have also scheduled individual sessions to train on Taskstream AMS.
- OIE has adjusted its consultation/training model. Rather than arrange a series of open workshops (which may or may not accommodate individual schedules), we have a portal where anyone on campus can request a consultation on the topic and at the time of their choosing: <https://oie.ua.edu/calendar/training-and-workshops>
- OIE will pilot a "peer review" assessment feedback process later this fall. Faculty doing assessment at other institutions have benefitted greatly from this kind of professional development opportunity. Volunteers are encouraged to contact Chris C., and more details will be available in September.
- Heather P. provided an update on the ELO Designation that was implemented (thanks to the Registrar) earlier this year. Like other course designations, the marker is a way to help students identify courses that include a robust experiential component. A Qualtrics-based application for Spring 2019 designations will be available soon.
- OIE has begun to publish and disseminate "Assessment Spotlight" vignettes to highlight high-quality assessment work being done around campus. Each will be one page in length and focus on a particular aspect of good assessment practice. The first vignette, "Student Life Data Dive with UREC," was distributed in hard copy and is available here: <https://oie.ua.edu/assessment/assessment-spotlight>. Other stories are planned, and those interested in being highlighted should contact Chris C.



Meeting adjourned

Next meeting: September 25th