



## The University Assessment Council

### Minutes

January 24, 2023

**Attendees:** Viola Acoff, Ginger Bishop, Ross Bryan, Karen Burns, Chris Coleman, Allison Curington, Andre Denham, Sebreana Jackson, Deidre Leaver-Dunn, Joyce Meyer, Michele Montgomery, Cecil Robinson, Jennifer Roth-Burnette, Tim Salazar, Lance Simpson, Liza Wilson, Akeisha Young

- **Fall assessment reports/trends** (academic degree programs [ADP])  
OIE provides feedback on all submitted assessment reports. Thus far, 143 ADP reports from Summer/Fall (2021-22 reporting cycle) have been reviewed. Of those, about 70% included all key elements of SACSCOC 8.2.a (SLOs in place; summary/interpretation of data collected; evidence of seeking improvement in student learning). Of the 30%, many programs are new (no students at assessment points yet) and/or small (less than 5 graduates per year). Thus far, we've requested revisions from 13 programs—in the prior cycle, that number was 37. About 70 additional reports are expected to be submitted in the coming weeks, including about 10 from programs that requested extensions in the Fall. We post a calendar of ADP reporting cycles [here](#).
- **Updates on SACSCOC (Class of 2025 Orientation meeting) and QEP Selection Process**  
Ginger gave an overview of the SACSCOC Annual Meeting, where UA's Leadership Team (Bell; Bishop; Dalton; Fajack; Reid) participated in orientation sessions ahead of our 2025 Reaffirmation. She also discussed the fast-approaching topic selection process for UA's next QEP (part of the Reaffirmation). A QEP must flow from institutional data/needs and focus on enhancing student learning and/or student success. A recent "call for proposals" email from Provost Dalton was disseminated to the UAC after our meeting; it's included at the bottom of these minutes. Initial (brief) QEP proposals are due by the end of January.
- **Update on General Education assessment**  
Ginger discussed ongoing pilot assessments of the [Gen Ed Capacities/SLOs](#). The pilots include collection of archival data from departments (e.g., Math) that have been using standardized exams/measures to evaluate (internally) student learning in areas related to the Capacities. OIE also worked with English Department faculty who assessed a set of student writing samples in the Fall (summary report in progress).  
Akeisha and Chris were recently appointed as co-chairs of the Assessment Subcommittee of the General Education Core Curriculum Implementation Committee. The subcommittee charge is to provide recommendations about establishing a

systematic program assessment process for Gen Ed. It appears likely that our approach will be mainly course-embedded (i.e., faculty teaching 100/200-level core courses will evaluate embedded, SLO-aligned student work and report summary findings). Many peer institutions do it that way. Design questions include alignment of course assignments/syllabi with the Capacities/SLOs; CCOC review/approval of courses for the new core [2025]; frequency of assessment; and involvement of capstone courses.

- **Provost's Improvement Award (Jan. 15 submission deadline)**

We received one submission (an improvement story about student learning) for the pilot iteration of the PIA. Although more submissions would have been desirable, the limited number gives us a very good opportunity to review and refine the PIA guidelines and evaluation process. Chris will share the submission and a Qualtrics survey (for evaluation and constructive criticism) in the coming days. At February's meeting, we can

### **Upcoming Meetings**

February 28, 2023

March 28, 2023

**From:** Sherri Edwards <[sherri.edwards@ua.edu](mailto:sherri.edwards@ua.edu)>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 10:04 AM

**Cc:** Ginger Bishop <[vabishop@ua.edu](mailto:vabishop@ua.edu)>

**Subject:** Seeking Proposals for QEP -- Sent on behalf of Provost James Dalton

It is an exciting time to be at The University of Alabama, where faculty and staff are engaging in activities and discussions about the success of our students. These ongoing efforts and conversations embody the purpose of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a component of the SACSCOC decennial reaffirmation process. UA is required to develop and implement a "carefully designed course of action that addresses a well-defined and focused topic or issue related to student learning and/or student success." This five-year course of action may involve an in-progress project or a promising initiative that addresses a need for improvement or enhancement. The QEP must support UA's Strategic Plan:

[\*Advancing the Flagship: The Next Phase \(2022-27\).\*](#)

Faculty and staff in educational, academic support, and student support programs who are leading applicable projects or are in the process of developing projects for future implementation are encouraged to submit [this brief Qualtrics form by January 30, 2023](#). The form requests the following information about the proposed or ongoing project:

- An explanation of how the project is related to Student Learning or Student Success (focus)
- Student success measures or student learning outcomes to be improved/enhanced
- A brief description of the project
- Data used for determining need and how the impact of the project will be determined (assessment/evaluation plan)
- Targeted student population and approximate number of students in target population
- Date implemented (ongoing project) or proposed implementation (new initiative)

The process for determining the QEP project involves a series of reviews that conclude with a public presentation by finalists in April. Guidance to project leaders will be provided throughout the process by the SACSCOC Liaison, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, and external consultants. The first opportunity to learn more about the QEP will be in group sessions on January 11 and 12 with Dr. Ginger Bishop, SACSCOC Liaison. **The 30-minute informational sessions with Q&A will begin Wednesday, January 11, at 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon. Sessions on Thursday, January 12, will be at noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. All sessions will take place in Capital Hall 1803.** To sign up for a session, please click here: <https://bit.ly/3VX32G5>

The university's QEP project does not have to demonstrate institution-wide impact. However, the ability to scale the project up throughout the five-year project will be a major consideration. Other considerations for UA's QEP include:

- Alignment with UA's Strategic Plan
- Alignment of student learning outcomes or student success measures with proposed actions
- Appropriate use of data to determine need and success of the program
- Use of research-based best practices.

For more information on the QEP and UA's selection process, please review the attached documents.

## **Attachments**

- *Learning in Action*, UA's 2015 QEP
- The Quality Enhancement Plan FAQs
- QEP Development Timeline

Please direct questions about the QEP to [Dr. Bishop](#). Also share this email with others in your division, departments, and offices.

Thank you for your interest in student learning and student success.

Jim Dalton

Executive Vice President and Provost