



The University Assessment Council

Minutes

September 26, 2023

Attendees: Ginger Bishop, Joy Burnham, Chris Coleman, André Denham, Barrett Elder, Sebrena Jackson, Grace Lee, Wilson Lowrey, Joyce Meyer, Michele Montgomery, Albert Pionke, Cecil Robinson, Jennifer Roth-Burnette, Tim Salazar, Lance Simpson, Rachel Thompson, Valerie Tisdale, Derek Williamson, Akeisha Young

- Reminders:
 - **October 1** is the due date for those on the *Academic* assessment reporting cycle
 - OIRA can share disaggregated data from **graduation surveys** (see Qs in Box)
 - <https://oira.ua.edu/new/requests/>
 - Please complete the Student Success Initiatives survey if applicable (see email):
 - https://universityofalabama.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8HzzB7vUmTSoQ98
- UAC Introductions and Updates:
 - Lots of good news on the specialized accreditation front. Over the past year, many colleges/programs have had successful reaccreditation visits—including Law (ABA), HES (CIDA, COAMFTE), Education (CAEP), C&IS (ACEJMC), and Business (AACSB). Congratulations to all!
- Additional updates from CIT, TLC, and OIT (thanks for sending these, Rachel!):
 - Joyce mentioned needing to harvest materials from Blackboard and other instructional tech tools when a faculty member leaves or perhaps the instructor's role does not extend to assessment. If anyone in UAC needs more information about **how to get access to instructional tech for assessment and accreditation purposes**, please email cit@ua.edu
 - CIT and OIT are available to meet with or otherwise assist with visits from accrediting groups; we recently hosted the external evaluators for the interior design program accreditation (CIDA).
 - **Simple Syllabus** completion reports are available from the Registrar's Office. For Fall 2023, we have 8511 completed syllabi and 609 not completed. That's a higher completion rate than we have ever seen before.
 - CIT is hosting 6 **Adobe Portfolio and Microsoft Sway workshops** in October titled Build a digital portfolio and personal website. All of the sessions can be found online at <https://cit.ua.edu/workshops/>

- **Action Plans:** The group reviewed 8 shorthand examples of action plans (please see the slide deck in the Box folder for the 2023.09.26 meeting) and discussed their relative merits as **evidence of seeking improvement in learning**—a key element of SACSCOC standards 8.2.a and 8.2.c.

Generally, UAC reps felt the first two examples (D and F) were compelling and could plausibly improve learning; the next two (B and C) were borderline due to limited specifics; and the last four examples (H, G, E, A) were not really “learning improvement” (LI) plans. Note: There’s nothing wrong with action plans to shore up assessment processes; however, they are not substitutes for LI action plans.

During the conversation, the group shared several observations:

- More detailed, targeted, timelined, and collaborative interventions are more compelling (to an external reader) and, importantly, more likely to have the desired impact (e.g., F vs. B).
- Faculty may sometimes resist the idea of a coordinated approach to curricular alignment/enhancement, leading to a vague improvement plan (e.g., B).
- For a college-level assessment coordinator who is screening reports, an action plan like example B presents an opportunity to encourage that program to develop more implementation details (in which courses will coverage be increased? through what types of strategies? when?).
- Assessment data/activities can bring faculty/staff together to discuss important issues (e.g., curriculum) and get on the same page. How can we collectively give students an even better learning experience and help them achieve the program-level learning outcomes we want for them?
- Please see the website below for more detailed examples of (good) **LI action plans**:
<https://oie.ua.edu/how-do-you-measure-improvement/assessment-at-ua/>

Upcoming Meetings

Fall semester

October 24, 2023