

Minutes

University Assessment Council

November 13th, 2015, 9am, Rankin Hall 303

Members Present: Arvin, Ball, Ballard, Bhowmick, Bunnett, Hampton, Hare, Herrington-Perry, Myers, Peterson, Pitner

Members Absent: Anderson, Baker, Bernard, Powers, Protz, Tuttle

I. **Approval of the October 16th Minutes**

Peterson moved and Pitner seconded the motion to approve the minutes. They were approved as published with one abstention (Bunnett).

II. **Discussion of Requiring the Assessment of Minors**

Members suggested that if there is to be a requirement, it should pertain to “stand-alone” minors whose core courses are not already being assessed as part of a related major. A question was raised as to whether we can assume such minors would have the same outcomes as the related major. Since no minors currently are being assessed, members agreed it was not possible to answer the question at this time.

The consensus is that we should assess minors according to a phased-in plan that tentatively would begin in 2017. This would give units time to build curriculum maps and outcomes libraries. Discussion of details will continue at the next Assessment Leadership Team meeting.

III. **Review of Survey of Assessment-Related Professional Development Needs**

Owing to declining interest in the annual assessment conference, the Assessment Leadership Team has suggested that we survey the campus community to determine what kind of assessment-related activities we should provide in 2016 and beyond. The Council discussed a draft of that survey. Members suggested that the introduction should emphasize the Council’s sincere desire to address faculty and staff interests and needs. Other suggestions included adding “Moving from assessing my course to assessing my program” to the list of topics of interest, and adding a question to determine whether respondents would assist in delivering professional development activities.

Members agreed that since surveys related to the strategic planning initiative would be sent out in the near future, the assessment survey should be postponed to January. Bhowmick has volunteered to refine the survey and set it up in Qualtrics. Members also discussed the possibility of providing an incentive to encourage participation.

IV. Updates from Members of the Council

Lentz shared a recently completed study of the relationship between students' use of the Rec Center and their retention and GPA. He underscored that there is a positive relationship, but that the underlying reason for this is that students who make a connection to the university (in this case, by taking advantage of the services provided) are more likely to be retained and do well.

Herrington-Perry reported on the Indianapolis Assessment Conference and shared a list of the presentations so that members could identify any handouts they were interested in. She also summarized a proposal to simplify ISU's assessment process. Members will discuss this item at the next meeting.

V. Other Business

None

VI. Adjournment

Our next meeting will be at 9am on Friday, January 15th, in Parsons Hall 210.