

Minutes

University Assessment Council
October 14th, 2016, 9am, Federal Hall 222

Members Present: S. Anderson, K. Armstrong, S. Arvin, E. Hampton, J. Harder, M. Herrington-Perry, N. Myers, A. Pitner, J. Sare

Members Absent: W. Baker, D. Ballard, B. Bunnett, B. Dhome, C. Lutz, Y. Peterson, S. Powers

I. Call to Order

Chair Eric Hampton called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

II. Welcome to New Member

The chair recognized Ms. Sarah Anderson, the new undergraduate representative for the Student Government Association.

III. Approval of the September 9th Minutes

S. Arvin moved and K. Armstrong seconded the motion to approve the Minutes. The motion passed with one abstention.

IV. Ensuring Continuous Attention to Student Learning Assessment

At our last meeting, Dr. Peterson requested that we consider ways to ensure programs are attending to assessment between Student Learning Summary Reports. The Assessment Leadership Team subsequently solicited feedback, which was shared with the council. Discussion ensued, with Myers pointing out that the new system is simple; adding another report/deadline could evaporate the goodwill created by simplifying the assessment reporting process. Armstrong noted that building a culture of assessment is crucial, and that an interim report would help us ensure that needed work got done well before the June deadline. Pitner/Myers suggested the possibility of a voluntary report: Those who submitted it might earn additional consideration for the Provost's Award for Excellence in Student Learning Assessment. Harder pointed out that some colleges already have an interim reporting process in place, and thus anything the council might create would need to be flexible. Arvin added that while an interim report could be seen as a step back, at least it would serve as a reminder that might prevent programs from doing all their assessment work at the last minute. Hampton noted that if a change was made, it should be effective for 2017-18.

The council agreed that the Assessment Leadership Team should draft a proposal for a brief interim report. It will review the proposal at its November meeting.

V. Creation of a Selection Committee for the Provost's Award for Excellence in Student Learning Assessment

S. Arvin, J. Sare, and (later) B. Bunnett agreed to serve on the subcommittee. Responses from the eight programs nominated for the award are due to M. Herrington-Perry on November 11th and will be shared with the subcommittee as soon as possible.

VI. An Overview of the 2016 Student Learning Summary Reports (SLSRs)

M. Herrington-Perry shared a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the 2016 SLSRs and tentative recommendations. Members noted that the presentation was informative and dovetailed well with the discussion of the need to conduct an interim “check up” on programs’ assessment progress.

VII. Updates from Members of the Council

J. Harder noted that the Scott College of Business’s Student Learning Assessment Committee (SLAC) had met for the second time this semester. One issue that came up was the June deadline for the Student Learning Assessment Reports, which prevents some programs from incorporating results from final exams. (E. Hampton noted that it also prevents some clinical programs from including results from summer experiences.) Could the report deadline be changed to fall? K. Armstrong noted that his preference was for an even earlier deadline. J. Sare asked whether a fall deadline would delay assessment work, since programs would not receive feedback until late in the semester. M. Herrington-Perry noted that if all colleges submitted their reports via Blackboard, programs that wished to could submit as early as they pleased.

Ultimately, the council charged the Assessment Leadership Team with developing a proposal to change the due date of the Student Learning Summary Reports. It will review the proposal at its November meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Our November 11th meeting will be at 9am in Myers Technology Center 101E.