

UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

Summary Notes for Meeting #7: 2:00 –3:30 p.m., Oct. 23, 2002

Present: Linda Delene (Committee Chair, Academic Planning and Assessment), Ariel Anderson (Teaching, Learning and Leadership/USC), Gus Breymann (EUP - Lansing Campus), Beth denHartigh (Disabled Student Services), Meg Dupuis (English and COGE representative), George Fierro (Academic Advisors), Damodar Golhar (Haworth College of Business), Lonnie Hannaford (College of Education), Joyce Kubiski (Art), Lynn Lee (Trio Programs), Bettina Meyer (University Libraries/TOC), Donald Meyer (Economics), Hossein Mousavinezhad (Electrical and Computer Engineering/GSC), Galen Rike (Waldo Library/AAUP), Peter Saunders (Center for Teaching and Learning), Edmund Tsang (College of Engineering and Applied Sciences), Ric Underhile (Sindecuse Health Center/Division of Student Affairs), Martha Warfield (Division of Student Affairs), Robert Wertkin (Social Work), and Bill Wiener (The Graduate College). **Absent:** Mozhddeh Bruss (Family and Consumer Services/International Programs and Area Studies), Linda LeBlanc (Psychology), Stephen Malcolm (Biological Sciences), Daniel Stauffer (Health, Physical Education and Recreation/GSAC) and Vladimir Risukhin, (College of Aviation). **Guest:** Dr. Cecilia Lopez, Associate Director, Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, Chicago, IL.

The meeting began with a warm welcome to new members: Meg Dupuis, a faculty member in the English Department and a representative from COGE replacing Kathleen Cummings, and Vladimir Risukhin a faculty member in the College of Aviation replacing Raymond Cain, Jr. The summary of the meeting of Sept. 25th was accepted as written with two corrections: removal of the second “Oct. 2” in the third paragraph and correct spelling of the first name of Dr. Lopez, the Associate Director of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Accreditation Association. Linda then introduced Dr. Lopez to the Committee and Dr. Lopez made the following remarks during her visit with the committee.

- The revised institutional accreditation standards, with increased emphasis on strategic priorities, planning, and the relationship to student learning and budget allocations, take effect in January 2005.
- WMU’s focused visit of 2005 by the Higher Learning Commission team should be understood in terms of Feb. 2001 team’s report to WMU and the revised institutional accreditation standards.
- The assessment of student learning requires a change in the University towards a “culture of evidence” which documents how an “ongoing, systematic, and structured assessment program relates to priorities and strategic planning at WMU.” There should be evidence about how student learning information affects budgets and academic priorities at the University.
- Positive comments about the draft University Assessment plan (dated June 2002) included, for example, its list of benefits from assessment on page one, the organization and designation of CARS on pages seven and eight, the proposed assessment grants to facilitate assessment programs at the departmental level, and the use of assessment outcomes data in the recently established academic program planning process.
- Negative comments about the draft university Assessment plan (dated June 2002) include the lack of specific responsibility for COGE in terms of general education assessment, the leisurely timetable for implementation of planned assessment activities including the assessment of the general education, and the lack of public statements about specific student learning outcomes.
- Dr. Lopez cautioned the steering committee that the team for the 2005 visit will expect, at least, some evidence of general education assessment outcomes and the specification of learning outcomes for majors across campus.

The meeting concluded with several questions from committee members for Dr. Lopez. She concluded her committee visit with assurance about the committee’s crucial leadership role to the work ahead. Delene reminded the group that colleagues from Winona State University would make presentations about Winona State’s “best in class” assessment and accreditation information system on Thursday, November 14, 2002. The Winona campus visit occurs right after the next committee meeting of Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 2:00PM. Colleagues were asked to send to Linda suggestions for revisions to the draft plan with the goal of having a revised draft ready for the Faculty Senate’s approval December 5, 2002. **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the following meetings:**

- (a) **University Assessment Steering Committee, 2:00PM, Wednesday, November 13, 2002**
- (b) **Winona State presentation Thursday, November 14, 2002, (details to follow) and**
- (c) **Presentation of a revised Assessment Plan to the Faculty Senate on Thursday, December 5, 2002.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30PM.