

**UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT ~ APRIL 2007**  
(prepared by Patrick Benton, Chair)

The purpose of this report is to highlight the major accomplishments and activities of the University Assessment Steering Committee for the period of May 2006 through April 2007.

**Plans Approved** The UASC approved the assessment plan for the Manufacturing Engineering EUP program. The assessment plan for the Department of Mathematics was received and is expected to be approved at the May UASC meeting. This brings the total number of plans approved to 69 (if including math). The Department of Blindness and Low Vision plan was submitted in March and is under review by the Health and Human Services RACT.

Assessment of General Education is being address by the General Education Policy & Assessment Committee (GEPAC) which is a sub-committee of COGE. UASC has representation on that committee which provides a desirable synergy between general education assessment and the UASC. The UASC will work with GEPAC to assist in any way possible.

**Assessment Reports** This year each dean was asked to report on their colleges' assessment activities. Specifically, they were asked to report on the progress of the use of assessment data to improve the programs in their college. They were invited to either the March, April, or May (2006) UASC meeting, where they delivered oral reports to the committee on the progress and achievements in their college. Q &A followed the reports and the committee was able to gain insight to successes, concerns, and needs of the colleges in their pursuit of improvement through assessment. The Committee provided a written response to each of the deans, indicating the Committees' impression of the colleges' activities and suggestions for future direction.

**Outreach Activities**

► The events sub-committee conducted the **PATHS (Panels on Assessment: Training, Help & Support)** series of assessment panel discussions. The series of four panel discussions included the topics; Networking with Assessment Contacts, Technology Support for Assessment, Developing Rubrics for Assessment, and Assessment Systems and Plans. The panels were well attended and the UASC received much positive feed back indicating that these discussions have provided an excellent forum for the exchange of ideas and building of practical assessment knowledge. The UACS would like to recognize and thank the following people who served as panelists for the various panel discussions.

Bryce Dickey (FCS), ,Craig Kaml (ATIS), Maira Bundza (Lib), Michael Whang (Lib), Karen Stokes (TracDat & iWeb), Tabitha Mingus (Math), Kathryn Hillenbrand (SPAA), Marie Gates (Nurs), Sarah Summy (SPLS), Suzan Ayers (HPER), Joyce Kubiski (Art), Paul Vellom (TLES). Special thanks to Katherine Cummings (C of Ed) and Sue Brodasky (OIE) for their efforts to organize and moderate these informative panels.

► The Committee brought in guest speaker Dr. Michael Choban, a nationally recognized expert on assessment from West Virginia Wesleyan College, in October. He gave a presentation entitled “ Implementing Sustainable and Useful Assessment – So What’s the Problem?” and followed with a Q & A period. The event was very informative and well attended.

► The Assessment Grant Fellows presented their project results at a public forum in March. Jim Eckert and Steve Newell (Marketing), presented their project; “*Verifying and Validating the SBM Program Learning Outcomes*”, and Yvonne Unrau and Melinda McCormick (Social Work) presented their project; “*Developing Social Work’s Self-efficacy Model of Student Assessment*”

► The Office of Institutional Effectiveness and the UASC have established an award to recognize outstanding work on campus in the arena of assessment. The purpose of the awards is to recognize and showcase the efforts of people and organizations that have done notable work developing and conducting assessment plans and activities. The committee is currently establishing criteria for the award which is slated to be offered beginning next year.

► The UASC is developing an online portfolio using iWebFolio as a platform. The portfolio will be accessible by anyone and will contain information pertaining to assessment and UASC activities. It will be used as a means to share assessment work, showcase achievements, and post current activities of the UASC. Faculty will be encouraged to submit articles about their assessment activities or other assessment related ideas.

► The UASC chair is participating on the Faculty Senate sub-committee to revise the university curriculum change policy and procedure. The documentation of assessment consideration in the process, as well as a method to track the changes attributable to assessment activities are the goals.

**Assessment Research Grants** Three grants were awarded for assessment research this year. The grant PI’s and their projects are:

Robert Balik and Judith Swisher (Finance and Commercial Law),  
“*Use of a Standardized Exam to Assess Learning of Finance Students*”

Jim Eckert and Steve Newell (Marketing),  
*“Verifying and Validating the SBM Program Learning Outcomes”*

Yvonne Unrau and Melinda McCormick (Social Work)  
*“Developing Social Work’s Self-efficacy Model of Student Assessment”*

This has been a valuable program which has aided in the development of assessment techniques and process and furthered the understanding of assessment. Three proposals have been received for the 2007-2008 grant and this year the review process is being conducted electronically for the first time using iWebFolio

**A UASC Member Selected** Linda Ickes (Career and Student Employment Services) was selected to present a paper at the North Carolina State University assessment symposium.