

## **UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT STEERING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT ~ APRIL 2009**

**Prepared by Patrick Benton, UASC Chair**

The purpose of this report is to highlight the major accomplishments and activities of the University Assessment Steering Committee for 2008-09. The committee membership is listed at [www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment](http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment).

### **Assessment Reports**

The deans of each college submitted an assessment report to the provost. These reports are available for review on the Office of Institutional Effectiveness web site at [www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment](http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment) (select “Annual Assessment Reports”). The UASC reviewed these reports and responded with comments and suggestions in letters to each dean.

### **Assessment Excellence Award**

The first annual Assessment Excellence Award was given in October 2008. The winner, in the individual category, was Brad Dennis of University Libraries. His paper is titled “Using Content Analysis Software to Analyze Survey Comments.” The award, which includes a cash prize, attracted eight papers for the competition.

### *Guest Speaker*

At the Assessment Excellence Award ceremony, Dr. Susan Hatfield of Winona State University gave a presentation titled “Black Holes and Gaseous Processes: Big Mistakes in Assessment.”

### **Faculty Assessment Grant**

The Faculty Assessment Grant program awarded three research grants this year. The recipients were:

- *Dr. Joyce Walker (English)*  
Project title: “Assessing Student Learning Outcomes in English 1050”
- *Dr. Carla Chase (Occupational Therapy)*  
Project title: “Design and Initial Evaluation of a Competency Based Curriculum for the Occupational Therapy Program”

- *Dr. Marcia Fetters (Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies)*  
Project title: “Evaluating Professional Preparation in Professional Practice”

### **Evaluation of Assessment**

A survey undertaken last fall to evaluate assessment at WMU was concluded. Bob Wertkin (College of Health and Human Services) analyzed the survey responses and prepared a report, which he presented to the UASC. The committee is using the report to help set priorities and directions for future activities. The survey results are available on the OIE/Assessment Web site.

### **Publication Workshop**

The first annual Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Publication (SOTL) workshop was held at the College of Health and Human Services on May 30. Dr. David J. Malik, professor of chemical education and physical chemistry at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, gave a presentation titled “The Manuscript Review Process in a Teaching and Learning Journal.” A number of breakout sessions were also held (reference SOTL summary report on OIE/Assessment Web site). Planning is underway for the 2009 workshop, which will be held on May 30.

### **Assessment in Action**

The Assessment in Action subcommittee planned and conducted a number of outreach and educational activities again this year. Accomplishments included:

#### *Panels on Assessment: Training, Help & Support (PATHS)*

This roundtable discussion series held three events in 2008-09. Topics and panelists included:

- *“Rubrics, Rubrics, Rubrics”*  
Held at the College of Health and Human Services. Panelists were Sarah Summy (Education), Jane Baas (Dance) and Katharine Cummings (Education).
- *“Assessment: What Is It Good For?”*  
Held in Dunbar Hall. Panelists included Joni Jones (Nursing), Cheryl Lyon-Jenness (History), Donna Weinreich (Social Work), and Katharine Cummings (Education).

- *“Rubrics, Rubrics, Rubrics”*  
Held in the Richmond Center for Visual Arts. Panelists included Karen Bondarchuk (Fine Arts), Joyce Kubiski (Fine Arts), Sarah Summy (Education), and Katharine Cummings (Education).

### *Assessment Matters*

Four issues of *Assessment Matters*, the UASC’s news and events publication, were produced this year. The newsletter is sent to department chairs, assessment committee chairs and members, and many others to announce upcoming events and assessment-related news items.

### *iWebfolio Portfolio Contest*

Portfolios can be an effective assessment tool. This event is intended to showcase student portfolios, which were developed to present their work, and at the same time to demonstrate the effectiveness of a portfolio as an assessment technique. Cash prizes of \$100 each were awarded to five winners. Planning is underway for next spring’s contest, which will also award five \$100 prizes. For more information on iWebfolio and the contest, visit the Center for Practices with Electronic Portfolios and Assessment at [www.wmich.edu/cepa](http://www.wmich.edu/cepa).

### *New Members*

An orientation for new UASC members was conducted prior to the May committee meeting. The orientation is intended to familiarize incoming members about the mission and activities of the UASC so that they may be more effective participants when their committee service begins in the fall.

### **Curricular Changes**

The inaugural publication of the Annual Report on Assessment and Curriculum Change was published by the director of undergraduate studies. The report shows the changes to curricula for each college throughout the University that were brought about as a result of assessment activities. The report is available for review on the Office of Institutional Effectiveness Web site at [www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment](http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment) (under “University Assessment Steering Committee,” select “Annual Report on Assessment and Curriculum Change 2008”).

### **Graduate Assessment Research Grant**

The UASC is studying the possibility of expanding the research grant program to include a graduate student grant. Work is ongoing to develop criteria and a framework for the award.

### **Plan Revision**

The UASC is preparing to revise the University Assessment Plan. To this end, the provost attended the March 2009 committee meeting and discussed his vision for UASC in the future.

### **Voluntary System of Accountability**

The UASC interacted with WMU's VSA task force. Presentations by Marcia Feters and Dave Reinhold provided the committee with an opportunity for input on the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) exam, which was selected for use to fulfill the VSA requirements.

### **Web Site Revision**

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness has tapped the UASC to assist in the revision of its Web site. The revision will make it easier for users to navigate and find information published by the UASC and the OIE, and will increase the transparency of assessment activities at WMU.

### **UASC Subcommittees**

*Assessment Excellence Award:* Laura Darrah, Katharine Cummings, David Reinhold, Yvonne Unrau, Patrick Benton

*Assessment Research Grant:* Katharine Cummings, Laura Darrah, Marianne Di Pierro, Patrick Benton

*Assessment in Action:* Sue Brodasky, Maira Bundza, Carla Chase, Katharine Cummings, Bryce Dickey, Marcia Feters, Kristin Lagerquist, Dave Reinhold, Cathe Springsteen, Karen Stokes

*Traveling Assessment Consultation Teams (TACT):* Katharine Cummings, Dave Reinhold, Patrick Benton, Karen Stokes, Lin Foulk

*Graduate Assessment Research Grant:* Gwen Tarbox, Marianne Di Pierro

*Web Site Revision:* Kristin Lagerquist, Katharine Cummings

*Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) Conference:* Edward Eckel,  
Eileen Evans, Marianne Di Pierro, Gwen Tarbox