

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Diane Anderson, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Timothy Greene, Provost

From: Susan L. Caulfield, Chair - University Assessment Steering Committee

Date: May 18, 2016

Subject: UASC Annual Summary Report

On behalf of the University Assessment Steering Committee, I share a summary of our work throughout the 2015-16 academic year.

Key Accomplishments:

- Led the 2015-16 Deans' Assessment Report process. UASC moved from a more general and large-scope data gathering process to a new template that focused on each department highlighting one student learning outcome and placing it in the larger context of how assessment is being practiced in the department. These reports were received from the deans in December. Sub-committees reviewed the reports and wrote summary reports of what was observed in each college. These summary reports were submitted to the deans in May 2016. Overall, UASC learned that while some departments clearly understand assessment and student learning outcomes, many departments could use guidance in the process, notably around formative versus summative assessment, direct versus indirect assessment, student learning outcomes versus accreditation criteria, and how to integrate assessment into the curriculum process. In addition, many departments claim a need for more resources around assessment, suggesting a need to better educate the WMU community on effective and efficient ways to use assessment as part of curriculum review and program planning.
- Implemented AMPS (Assessment Mentor Pilot Study) in response to feedback from the APR&P process, matching mentors with three departments that requested help with department assessment plans. Two of those relationships led to significant progress on department assessment plans, while the third never gained the necessary traction (it appeared there may have been some miscommunication on the purpose of the program).
- A subcommittee reviewed assessment plans submitted by 5 student support units (FYE, CASP, HIGE, EUP and Advising) and provided consultation. The subcommittee has received draft plans from 3 of the 5 units. The group plans to continue to work together over the summer to provide more in-depth workshops for the remaining units with the intent that they would turn in drafts or revisions of drafts by August 15, 2016.
- Ann Chapleau received the Individual Assessment Excellence Award for her work on the Goal Attainment Scale and an interdepartmental group received the Unit Assessment Award (Chris Robinson-HCoB, Monica Liggins-Abrams-CRICPE and Randy Ott-CASP) for their work with Dr. Paul Hernandez and a day dedicated to "Breaking chains: Gang to graduation."

- Assessment in Action subcommittee facilitated the 7th annual WMU assessment conference. Approximately 78 people attended; the two keynote speakers were Dr. Julia Williams of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and Dr. Kathy Collins of Michigan State University.

- The Awards subcommittee revised and improved several items during the 2015-16 academic year. Guidelines and eligibility for the Individual Assessment Excellence Awards were rewritten to allow for broader participation from faculty and staff contributing to assessment but who have not published a peer-reviewed article. The guidelines document for Assessment Fellows Grants program was significantly revised for clarity. Both efforts contributed to the highest number of applicants in recent years for both the individual excellence award and fellows grants applications. The Awards subcommittee plans to continue to support the growing culture of assessment on campus by finding innovative ways to publicize the excellent contributions to student learning by our WMU colleagues.

- 6 Assessment Grant Fellows were awarded for 2016-17. The awardees are:
Eric Archer, Educational Leadership, Research and Technology
Edward Eckel, University Libraries
Hsiao-Chin Kuo and Susan Piazza, Special Education and Literacy Studies
Matthew Ross (Finance and Commercial Law) and Jennifer Collins (CRICPE)
Lisa Singleterry (Bronson School of Nursing), Sally Vliem (Bronson School of Nursing),
Kristine Gibson (WMed)
and Scott Gaynor (Psychology)
Cindy Visscher and Diane Riggs (Comparative Religion)

- As part of our leadership development process (created during 2014-15), Anthony Helms (Lee Honors College) served as vice chair and assumes the role of chair beginning with the 2016-17 academic year. Tracy DeMars (Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies) was elected vice chair for 2016-17. Please note that we rotate leadership between academic affairs and student support units.

- Beginning in March 2016, we added an assessment Spotlight to the agenda for each UASC meeting. These have served as important ways for members of the UASC to highlight how they are working with assessment in their own unit. For 2016-17, Spotlight participants will likely include members from outside the UASC.

- We held a strategic planning meeting in July 2015, which informed the work of the committee for 2015-16. A strategic planning meeting is planned for July 25, 2016.

Your questions or suggestions are welcome as we prepare to continue our committee work in 2016-17. Thank you for what you do to support a culture of assessment at Western Michigan University.

C: UASC