

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Diane Anderson, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Sue Stapleton, Interim Provost

From: Anthony Helms, Chair - University Assessment Steering Committee

Date: July 7, 2017

Subject: UASC Annual Summary Report

On behalf of the University Assessment Steering Committee, I share a summary of our work throughout the 2016-17 academic year.

Key Accomplishments:

- Created and implemented programming on assessment for faculty and staff across campus via “UASC Monthly Gatherings.” These provide the opportunity to hear from UASC members on a specific topic within assessment for 15-20 minutes followed by casual atmosphere to learn about, discuss, and exchange ideas on areas of assessment of student learning. The program was created and topics were selected to meet the stated needs found in the 2015-16 Deans’ Assessment Reports. UASC hosted discussions on defining student artifacts, clarifying student learning outcomes, and curriculum mapping.
- Megan Slayter received the Individual Assessment Excellence Award for her assessment efforts in the Department of Dance. Through her work as the chair of the departmental assessment committee, as a faculty member, and now department chair, Megan has been a catalyst for rethinking the assessment planning process in the department and using the data to improve student learning.
- The Seita Scholars program received the Unit Assessment Award. Seita has exhibited a strong commitment to continuous improvement to assure that the programs and services offered best meet the needs of these students and has incorporated assessment methods and measures into the culture of the work they do. Through what they have learned from this data, the program has been able to increase graduation rates, stabilize 2nd year retention rates, and close the gap on the number of student account holds and course withdrawals.
- A third award was created this year, the UASC Assessment Excellence Collaboration Award, to recognize the efforts of Dr. Jonathan Bush and Dr. Adrienne Redding for their work on the ENGL 1050 – Intensive program. The new award resulted from the fact that the application for their work did not meet the criteria for the individual or unit awards, but the committee wanted to not only recognize the importance of their work but also to support further collaboration efforts on assessment across campus.
- Awarded 2017-18 assessment grants totaling \$12,750 to:
Betty Dennis and Debra Lindstrom Hazel (Interdisciplinary Health Programs)
Peter Gustafson (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
Lee Penyak and Ryan Rounds (Study Abroad)
Sue Stapleton and May Sydlik (Graduate College/College of Arts and Sciences)
- Assessment in Action subcommittee facilitated the seventh annual WMU assessment conference. Approximately 110 people attended representing more than a half dozen institutions (Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kellogg Community College, Rhodes State College, WMED, WMU, and WMU Cooley Law School); the two keynote speakers were Dr. Kristen McKinney of University of California-Los Angeles Dr. Gloria Rogers of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. The 2017 Assessment in Action conference was the highest attended to date.

- As part of our leadership development process (created during 2014-15), Tracy Demars (CEHD) served as vice chair and assumes the role of chair beginning with the 2017-18 academic year. Marilyn Duke (CASP) was elected vice chair for 2017-18.

- Held a strategic planning meeting in July 2016, which informed the work of the committee for 2016-17. A strategic planning meeting is planned for July 2017.

Your questions or suggestions are welcome as we prepare to continue our committee work in 2017-18. Thank you for what you do to support a culture of assessment at Western Michigan University.

C: UASC