

# UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT STEERING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT ~ SEPTEMBER 2011

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 the 2010 – 2011 academic year. The committee membership as well as details of many of the activities, grant and award information, events, meeting minutes and much more can be found at [www.wmich.edu/assessment](http://www.wmich.edu/assessment).

**Assessment Meetings** During summer 2010 a sub-committee of the UASC met with the associate deans and some deans of every college. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the state of assessment in the colleges. Successes and challenges that hinder assessment were discussed. As a result of these meetings, the UASC has developed a list of strategies that are intended to increase the awareness of the UASC and the resources that are currently available to assist units with assessment.

**Assessment in Action Day** The second annual Assessment in Action day was held in March. The day included several break-out sessions, presentations of research projects by the Assessment Grant fellows, and a keynote speech by Dr. Mary Allen, Professor Emeritus, California State University – Bakersfield. The event drew 76 attendees and was highly rated. A seminar/workshop held the day prior to the event focused on general education assessment and was also well attended.

**Faculty Assessment Grant** There were eight Faculty Assessment Grants awarded in April 2011 for the academic year 2011-2012. The recipients were:

- Elizabeth Bradburn (Department of English)
- Marilyn Duke (Center for Academic Success Programs), Laura Darrah (Residence Life), and Toni Woolfork-Barnes (First Year Experience)
- Anne Lundquist (Division of Student Affairs)
- Edwin Martini and James Cousins (Department of History)
- Deanna Roell and Robyn Bowers (Center for Academic Success Programs)
- Dianna Sachs and Carrie Leatherman (University Libraries)
- Gil Sinclair and Ryan Seiler (College of Aviation)
- Donna Weinreich (School of Social Work)

**Assessment Award** The individual Assessment Excellence Award was given to Dr Katherine Cummings, College of Education and Human Development. This award is given every other year to a faculty or staff member who has shown exemplary work in the area of assessment of student learning. To read Dr. Cummings article entitled, “KISS My Assessment! Simplifying Assessment for Sustainability”, which was submitted as an application for this award, go to: <http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/pdf/KISS-My-Assessment-2011.pdf>

Congratulations to Dr. Cummings for winning this award and for being such a positive role model for all of us to follow.

## **Guests and Presentations**

- Dr. Eileen Evans, Institutional Effectiveness, HLC Update, Report on the National Survey of Student Engagement and Faculty Survey of Student Engagement results and comparison.
- Dr. David Reinhold, Assessment and Undergraduate Studies, Report on the Collegiate Learning Assessment exam results. The CLA is part of the Voluntary System of Accountability engaged in by WMU.
- Dr. Ken Ruit, University of North Dakota and Dr. Kris Ladish, Purdue University, HLC visiting team. Discussed the history, function, and future plans for the UASC and how it fits into the University.
- Dr. Diane Anderson, Student Affairs, Review of assessment activities in the various units of Student Affairs.

**Assessment Plans** The UASC has identified 16 non-degree granting units that have been asked to develop assessment plans. Many of these units have submitted plans for review and most other units are in some stage of development of plan. The UASC has been working closely with these units through our Consultation and Review Teams (CARTs) and our Traveling Assessment Consultation Teams (TACT). The Lee Honors College assessment plan was approved this year.

**Assessment In Action** The Assessment in Action sub-committee planned and conducted a number of outreach and educational activities again this year. They are very active in the promotion of assessment at WMU. Some accomplishments include:

- **Assessment In Action Day** - Planned and conducted this very successful assessment workshop.
- **Assessment Matters @ WMU** - The assessment news and events publication of the UASC published its tenth issue this year. If you would like to be added to the mailing list contact Karen.Stokes@wmich.edu.
- **Portfolio Contest** - The portfolio contest is intended to showcase portfolios of work that students have developed. Three winners of the WMU Spring 2010 contest each received a \$150 prize and four honorable mentions received \$50 prizes.

**The WMU Assessment Handbook** was completed and published to the Assessment web site. Special thanks to Karen Stokes Chapo for this accomplishment.

**UASC Purpose, Activities, and Guidelines** The UASC has revised the original "Assessment Plan and Timetable" which was the guiding document at the inception

of the UASC. The revision, now titled “Purpose, Activities, and Guidelines” of the UASC, was published to the assessment web site.

**University Assessment Steering Committee  
Sub-committees**

**Assessment Excellence Award** Cari Robertson, Karen Stokes, Patrick Benton

**Graduate Assessment Research Grant Rubric Contest** Amy Curtis, Marianne Di Pierro, Dave Reinhold, Katharine Cummings, Marcia Feters, Karen Stokes, Patrick Benton

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

**Assessment Research Grant Award** Maira Bundza, Marilyn Kritzman, Patrick Benton

**UASC Five Year Plan** Katharine Cummings, Dave Reinhold, Patrick Benton, Karen Stokes, Lin Foulk, Laura Darrah, Kevin Knutson

**Web Site Revision** Brynne Belinger, Maira Bundza, Sue Brodasky, Carla Chase, Katharine Cummings, Marcia Feters, David Reinhold, Cathe Springsteen, Karen Stokes

**Assessment Plan Consultation and Review Teams (CART)** Marilyn Kritzman, Katharine Cummings, Dave Reinhold, Brad Dennis, Patrick Benton

**Deans Annual Assessment Report** Katharine Cummings, Brad Dennis, Dave Reinhold, Patrick Benton

**SoTL Conference Planning Committee** Dave Reinhold, Marianne Di Pierro, Brad Dennis, Andrea Beach, and Cathe Springsteen