University Assessment Council Annual Report 2009-10


2. Charge to the UAC for 2009-10. Provost Paul DeLuca attended the October 2009 UAC meeting. DeLuca thanked the Council members for their commitment and support and for serving as the assessment point-persons for schools/colleges/units. The provost especially encouraged the Council to consider the Essential Learning Outcomes-WI Experience framework [link] to guide assessment planning and prioritizing to ensure that we can demonstrate evidence of student learning at both the program and institutional levels.

3. Major Activities.
   a) Rethinking the Role of the Council and Student Learning Assessment into the Future
      In 2009-10 the Council conducted a strategic review process to assess the role of the Council and identify priorities that align more closely with the 2009 UW-Madison Reaccreditation report findings and the campus strategic plan. The Council identified three strategic priorities and developed a set of actions and/or issues that need further consideration as the Council moves forward:

         i) enhance professional development,
         ii) integrate assessment across programs including curricular/co-curricular programs, and
         iii) identify the differential and changing needs and priorities of the Council (e.g., policy vs. operational priorities); re-align the Council’s role to meet these challenges.

      b) Revising the 2003 University Assessment Plan. A major outcome of the Council’s strategic review process was the recognition that it is time to revise and update the 2003 University Assessment Plan [link]. The Council discussed a broad outline for revising the plan and will begin to draft a final plan for adoption by the UAC in spring 2011.

4. Schools/Colleges Annual Reports. Schools and colleges are required to submit an annual report to the provost outlining their assessment activities. In addition, assessment projects supported with Provost Office funding are also required to submit a report at the completion of the funding cycle. Council members will work with their school/college/unit to ensure these reports are submitted no later than December 15, 2010. Assessment reports are posted at: [link]

5. University Assessment Funds. The oversight and management of the University Assessment Funds resides with the Provost or his/her designee. A review committee appointed by the chair (or co-chairs) of the UAC considers the assessment fund proposals, consults with the UAC representatives as needed, and allocates funds based on the criteria stated in the annual Call for Assessment Funds. The UAC representatives play a key role in
shaping the foci for the call for funds and support their departments and units in preparing fund requests.

In 2009-10, nine assessment projects representing a number of departments and schools/colleges were funded including general education assessment activities. The total amount awarded: $176,900; the average fund award (excluding general education funds) was approximately $16,000/project. A summary of funded projects is available at: http://www.provost.wisc.edu/assessment/Assessment_Funds.html

Efforts are currently underway to review the assessment fund process including funding level, criteria and timeline to align more closely with campus initiatives including program review guidelines, external accreditation criteria, MIU and Inclusive Excellence initiatives, and other campus priorities.

University Assessment Council Homepage:  http://www.provost.wisc.edu/assessment/

6. Membership. The following individuals were appointed by deans and directors to the UAC:
   Mo Noonan Bischof, Office of the Provost (Co-Chair)
   Aaron Brower, Office of the Provost
   Eileen Callahan, Graduate School
   Kathleen Christoph, Academic Technology, DoIT
   Steve Cramer, College of Engineering
   Susan Dottl, School of Medicine and Public Health
   Charles Halaby, General Education Assessment Project
   *Kevin Kelly, Law School
   Emily Kiddoo, Associated Students of Madison
   Elaine Klein, College of Letters and Science
   Sarah Kuba, School of Pharmacy
   Sarah McDaniel, General Libraries
   Moira Lafayette, College of Engineering
   Kathy Luker, Office of Quality Improvement
   Amy Mikla, School of Veterinary Medicine
   Jocelyn Milner, Academic Planning & Analysis
   Jeanine Mount, School of Pharmacy (Co-Chair)
   Angie Nash, Wisconsin Alumni Association
   Nadine Nehls, School of Nursing
   Chris Olsen, School of Veterinary Medicine
   Sarah Pfatteicher, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
   Kathryn Sanders, International Studies
   Nora Cate Schaeffer, UW Survey Center
   Hope Simon, Nelson Institute
   Julie Tran, School of Business
   Argyle Wade, Offices of the Dean of Students
   Wendy Way, School of Human Ecology
   James Wollack, Office of Testing and Evaluation Services
   Brad Zulick, School of Education

   *New member.

Approved by the UAC, November 4, 2010.
Respectfully submitted to the provost, December 2, 2010.