University Assessment Council Annual Report 2008-09

1. **Meetings.** The UAC met several times for formal business meetings: September 16, October 21, November 18, 2008; January 21, February 17, March 10, April 27 (site visit meeting), and May 19, 2009.

2. **Charge to the UAC for 2008-09.** Provost Patrick Farrell attended the September 2008 UAC meeting. Farrell thanked the Council members for their commitment and support of assessment of student learning and for serving as the assessment point-persons for schools/colleges/units. The provost asked the Council to work together to prepare for and support the University’s Re-accreditation Project including the site-visit scheduled for April 2009.

3. **Major Activities.**
   a) **Ensuring the Council and its represented schools/colleges and units were prepared for and contributed to the 2009 Re-accreditation Project including the April 2009 HLC/NCA site visit.**

   Several of the Council meetings during 2008-09 were devoted to discussions and planning for the Re-accreditation site visit, paying particular attention to Criterion Three: Student Learning and Effective Teaching. Council members helped to coordinate school/college discussion with deans, APCs, department chairs and others on the role of student learning and assessment. Council members ensured that school/college/unit assessment plans and annual reports were up-to-date and provided effective and practical resources (e.g., rubrics, survey instruments, and other tools) to post on the website: http://www.provost.wisc.edu/assessment/.

   b) **Rethinking the Role of the Council and Student Learning Assessment into the Future**

   In 2007-08 the Council adopted the LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes and the WI-Experience (ELOs/WI-X) as a framework for assessing student learning at the program/unit level as well as institutionally. In 2008-09, this expanding focus, coupled with the Council’s efforts to prepare for the re-accreditation visit, prompted the Council to begin to outline its own strategic priorities for the future. The Council identified three main strategic areas to develop during AY 2009-10:
   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.

   The Council established three work groups to address these issues. Each group is charged with identifying top priorities and developing action plans for AY 2009-10.

4. **School/College and Unit Annual Reports the Schools and Colleges.** Annually, schools/college and major units submit report to the provost on their assessment activities. In the past few years, the number of schools, colleges and units submitting annual reports has increased and remains constant. Assessment reports are posted at: http://www.provost.wisc.edu/assessment/Assessment_Reports.html

5. **University Assessment Funds**

   The oversight and management of the University Assessment Funds resides with the Provost or his/her designee. Annually, 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 2008-09, eight assessment projects representing several departments and schools/colleges were funded including general education assessment activities. The total amount awarded: $167,000 and the average fund award (excluding general education funds) was $17,000. To see a summary of funded projects see: http://www.provost.wisc.edu/assessment/prevfundproposals.html

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
Carolyn Lazar Butler, Law School
*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
*Emily Kiddoo, Associated Students of Madison
Elaine Klein, College of Letters and Science
Sarah McDaniel, General Libraries
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
Guests: Nancy Mathews, UW Re-accreditation Project
       Eden Inoway-Ronnie, UW Re-accreditation Project

*New members. The 2008-09 UAC included 20 continuing members and seven new members. Jeanine Mount and Mo Noonan Bischof continued to serve as the co-chairs for the Council.


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