



**Advisory Committee on Academic Assessment (ACAA)  
Accreditation, Assessment and Learning  
Office of the Provost  
Kent State University**

**October 8, 2020 Meeting  
\*via Microsoft Teams\***

**MINUTES**

**Members in Attendance:**

Susan Perry, Hollie Simpson, Shannon Helfinstine, Marcia Kibler, Hend Baza, Jessie Carduner, Ching-I Chen, Dale Eilrich, Mary Hricko, Chris Hudak, Karen MacDonald, Jennifer Miller, David Putman, Sandra Randulic, Sean Ratican, Valerie Samuel, Elizabeth Sinclair, Linnea Stafford, Pamela Stephenson, Brittany Thomas, William Turek, Jennifer Walton-Fisette, and Deirdre Warren.

**I. Welcome and introductions**

Susan Perry conducted introductions and welcomed the new members, sharing the committee purpose and who is represented in various offices across the university. Susan posted the committee information through the Files on Teams for the members to read through the description of the committee as defined on the Faculty Senate site.

**II. Committee membership and charge**

Susan Perry invited the committee to nominate members to fill the co-chair position via a Google form shared in chat. The committee description talks about the role of the co-chair which includes helping to plan upcoming meetings, topics for discussion and helps lead the meetings. Once nominations have been received, online voting will be conducted, and the new co-chair will be announced at the next meeting.

**III. Approval of April minutes**

The minutes from the ACAA April meeting were presented and accepted as written. Jennifer Miller moved to accept the meeting minutes. Chris Hudak moved to second.

#### **IV. Announcements/Updates**

##### **Taskstream trainings**

Shannon Helfinstine shared the “Taskstream ACAA F20 Update”. Virtual training sessions took place during the summer months. A new Quick Guide, recommended by the Assessment Support Group, was created and other updated instructional guides are available on the AAL website. Due to the unusual semester and challenges faced with remote teaching, AAL offered report deadline flexibility with some programs taking advantage to submit later in the semester. Shannon is also willing to schedule one-on-one training sessions to help folks meet complete the reports.

##### **Annual assessment report update**

Shannon continued sharing Taskstream program assessment statistics, showing that overall participation is down from all previous years. Shannon will run reports to identify programs who need an extension or a refresher training and will follow up with those who have asked for extended deadlines. Taskstream users should share results with their chair/director along with other faculty to review data and make decisions when needed. She asked committee members to take this message back to their represented colleges to promote the feedback loop. Later, Shannon will reach out to those programs not currently in Taskstream making sure they know about Taskstream and that they know what data needs entered for 2020-21 submissions. Shannon will also work with Dale Ulrich from University College later this fall semester to input UC's effectiveness data into the system.

##### **Assessment Announcements**

Shannon announced a few assessment resources and professional development opportunities including the upcoming Assessment Institute virtual conference. The conference is free to attend this year with registration closing on Monday, October 12. She also mentioned the Assessment Support Group she leads is recruiting new members and she has created a new Teams page for the group to share resources. Regarding external organizations, NILOA provides an online calendar of upcoming conference and other resources and the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education (AALHE) provides resources and networking opportunities.

#### **V. Great Colleges results**

Susan Perry shared and discussed the “Great Colleges to Work For 2020 vs. 2019” and “GCTWF 2020 by Jobs Kent State” summary reports with the committee. The survey is distributed to a sample of faculty, administrators, exempt and non-exempt full-time staff along with an institutional questionnaire that AAL coordinates across several university offices about practices and policies. In the past, Kent State has been recognized in the benefits category. This year Kent State was recognized in three areas: 1) confidence in senior leadership, 2) facilities, workspace, and security, and 3) work/life balance.

#### **VI. NSSE results**

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) results “NSSE 2020 Overview for ACAA” were shared by Shannon Helfinstine and Susan Perry. The survey is conducted every three years and is given to first year students and seniors enrolled in a four-year

degree program. This year the regional campuses participated for the first time, except for the Stark campus, which has participated previously. About 95% of Kent State respondents took the survey this spring prior to moving to a remote instructional format. Nationally, results do not appear to be skewed by the pandemic, according to NSSE research. Results were shared with Interim VP and Provost Melody Tankersley and will be shared with Interim VP for Regional Campuses David Dees.

Engagement Indicators (EIs) and High Impact Practices (HIPs) summary results were compared to Great Lakes Public and Carnegie NSSE participant institutions. Areas of strength and challenge, demographic comparisons, and top comment themes (i.e., what students would change and not want to change) were also shared.

Liz Sinclair asked for more clarification regarding the student comments about faculty. Susan Perry shared that positive comments were about their relationships with faculty and discussion of their career and academic paths. Comments regarding change focused on pedagogy and classroom experience. Sinclair stated that the faculty comments are what ACAA should really try to better understand. She advised that the College of Business has been asked to participate in a group to work on retention, and many colleges are sending out student surveys to better understand their challenges in the remote instructional environment.

Valerie Samuel commented about Student Services, specifically that some student support services, like Dining Services, is very much interested in looking at results from surveys. They are very serious about not just providing care and quality for students but for faculty and staff as well. Student Affairs is interested in those support areas and getting that information. Valerie also mentioned the classroom fatigue is real. Students are coming out of the classroom talking about being overwhelmed by technology.

## **VII. Next meeting: November 12, 2:00-3:00pm, via Teams**

**Meeting adjourned**