



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

**November 12, 2020 Meeting
*via Teams***

MINUTES

Members in Attendance:

Susan Perry, Hollie Simpson, Shannon Helfinstine, Marcia Kibler, Hend Baza, Jessie Carduner, Dale Eilrich, Samantha Farland, Suat Gunhan, Mary Hricko, Chris Hudak, Brian Huot, Karl Idsvoog, Karen MacDonald, Jenny Marcinkiewicz, Jennifer Miller, Richmond Nettey, David Putman, Sandra Randulic, Sean Ratican, Valerie Samuel, Elizabeth Sinclair, Linnea Stafford, Pamela Stephenson, Brittany Thomas, Therese Tillett, William Turek, Kevin Van Bell, and Jennifer Walton-Fisette.

I. Welcome and introductions

a. New members

Susan Perry asked the newest members to introduce themselves, which included Suat Gunhan from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Karl Idsvoog, School of Media and Journalism, and Samantha Farland, Undergraduate Student Government Representative.

II. Approval of October minutes

The minutes from the ACAA October meeting were presented, reviewed, and accepted as written.

Karl Idsvoog asked about Great Colleges to Work For results related to a specific climate concern on campus and if this had been noted in the comments of the survey. Susan explained that the survey is a small sample of employees participating and is not sure how many from a specific area would have been surveyed during the early spring semester but can look into it.

III. Co-chair election

Susan Perry shared voting results with the committee, stating that Erica Eckert had been elected as co-chair for ACAA. The role of the co-chair is to assist in developing the agenda and leading topics of discussion for the meetings.

IV. Announcements

- Susan Perry mentioned that the I AM FIRST celebration for first generation faculty, staff, alumni and advocates conflicted with this ACAA meeting, but additional events were scheduled later for in the week. Jenny Marcinkiewicz commented that first-generation students, faculty and staff are a huge asset to Kent State.
- Shannon Helfinstine congratulated graduate student representative, Hend Baza, for her liquid crystal research recently published in *Nature Physics*.
- Jennifer Miller remarked that the College of Public Health has submitted their specialized accreditation self-study to the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), their accrediting body. The virtual site visit will take place on December 2-4, 2020.

V. Updates

a. Annual assessment/Taskstream report

Shannon Helfinstine shared the “Taskstream ACAA F20 Update” that has been posted in the Teams file for committee members to review. She reported Taskstream progress completion by college and commended the College of Podiatric Medicine, College of Business Administration, the College of Education, Health and Human Services and the College of Nursing for their high completion rates. Shannon is happy to help colleges still completing their 2019-20 assessments and/or plan for 2020-21 to regain momentum after this unprecedented year.

b. Assessment Institute

Shannon also updated the committee about attending the October virtual Assessment Institute. Diverse tracks and topics were offered, but a key takeaway included the importance of disaggregating assessment data for marginalized students to be culturally responsive and promote equity. Shannon also attended a session on assessment meta-trends that she may bring to a future ACAA meeting. Mary Hricko attended the Institute as well, mostly sessions related to using Canvas for learning outcomes. She will put together notes to place in the ACAA Teams file. Recordings of most Institute sessions can be found at <https://assessmentinstitute.iupui.edu/program/recordings.html>.

c. University Requirements Curriculum Committee (URCC) Kent Core

Shannon shared an update on the URCC meeting held on October 9. Several ACAA faculty members were invited to attend as guests. A representative from the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), Kate McConnell, discussed the role of a VALUE rubrics in the Kent Core assessment pilot with the group. URCC is recruiting faculty to participate in the Spring 2021 pilot, with student artifacts scored with a VALUE rubric.

Shannon also mentioned a few assessment resource reminders: KSU Teams invitation to join the Assessment Support Group, the NILOA Event Calendar (<https://www.learningoutcomesassessment.org/calendar/>) and AALHE membership benefits.

VI. Survey data discussion

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) results “NSSE 2020 Overview for ACAA-Part II” were shared by Shannon Helfinstine and Susan Perry. This was a

continuation from the previous meeting reviewing results from the first year and senior students surveyed. As part of this overview, the results from two topical modules, Global Learning and Learning with Technology, were shared with the committee.

Discussion ensued about Global Learning when Jessie Carduner pointed out that it would be interesting to compare against other schools that have a universal language requirement versus not. Susan agreed and noted that engagement in foreign language coursework is one component of broader institutional experiences that may contribute to speaking a second language, which is how it is worded in this survey module (“How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? – Speaking a second language”).

The Learning with Technology module explores the role of technology in student learning, focusing on usage, contribution to learning and perceptions of institutional support. Shannon reminded ACAA that about 95% of the students completed the survey before remote learning began on March 16. Jessie also noted it will be interesting to see what happens over the next couple of years as a result of COVID-19, since faculty have had to learn a lot about technology and learning this past year. Jenny Marcinkiewicz shared that the Center for Teaching and Learning trained 800+ faculty over the summer on how to get students engaged in asynchronous and synchronous technologies.

As requested in the previous meeting, Shannon provided additional information regarding student open-ended comments about faculty in the NSSE results. Among other items, students commented that faculty should be evaluated more often and take feedback seriously. There is also ample positive feedback about faculty being supportive with mentions of specific faculty or specific program faculty. Liz Sinclair shared concerns about remote teaching, especially with the freshman cohort. Jennifer Miller also shared concerns about students registering for courses that indicate a course is offered remotely when it is not a remote course, but 100% online. Jenny Marcinkiewicz explained the asynchronous experience from a faculty perspective and how that is defined in the AAUP contract. Concerns were mentioned specifically about part-time faculty, and discussion ensued regarding strategies to improve responsiveness to student needs via supervision of this group. Susan shared that Melody has seen the high-level comment themes shared at last meeting regarding faculty, not the specific comments, but those will be shared as well based on this committee’s feedback.

Dale Eilrich asked if the NSSE full data reports will be posted on the AAL webpage. Susan remarked that the reports were currently being formatted into an interactive dashboard, but AAL could post the Engagement Indicator and High Impact Practices reports in the interim, as they have in the past, before the dashboard is functional.

VII. Employment After Graduation webpage

The Employment After Graduation webpage discussion was tabled until the December 10th meeting.

VIII. Next meeting: December 10, 2:00-3:00pm, via Teams

Meeting adjourned