



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

**December 10, 2020 Meeting
*via Microsoft Teams***

MINUTES

Members in Attendance:

Susan Perry, Erica Eckert (co-chair), Shannon Helfinstine, Hollie Simpson, Marcia Kibler, Hend Baza, Ching-I Chen, Samantha Farland, Elizabeth Graham (guest), Suat Gunhan, Mary Hricko, Chris Hudak, Karl Idsvoog, Karen MacDonald, Jennifer Marcinkiewicz, Jennifer Miller, Richmond Netley, David Putman, Sandra Randulic, Sean Ratican, Elizabeth Sinclair, Yvonne Smith, Linnea Stafford, Brittany Thomas, Therese Tillett, and William Turek.

I. Welcome and introductions

Susan Perry thanked the committee for all their hard work during the fall semester amidst the continued challenges of this year. Introductions were made by the newest member, Yvonne Smith, Assistant Professor from College of Nursing, and Elizabeth Graham, Professor, School of Communication Studies, who attended as a guest.

II. Approval of November minutes

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

III. Announcements

Jennifer Miller shared that on December 2-4, 2020, the College of Public Health completed their virtual specialized accreditation visit by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). The college will respond to the CEPH report and submit a follow-up report that will be due in April 2021.

Shannon Helfinstine asked committee members if they had any knowledge of student surveys that are scheduled to launch during the spring semester. Members responded that Recreation Services and the Retention Task Force had potential surveys scheduled for the spring semester. Susan Perry suggested the possibility of an informal Google calendar to coordinate upcoming survey information to avoid overlap when possible.

Richmond Nettey shared his experience serving as chair of a virtual accreditation site team for another institution. The team reviewed graduate level programs as well as three undergraduate programs to complete a two-year report. The review and report submission went well after overcoming challenges with the virtual format and coordinating with reviewers across time zones.

IV. Employment After Graduation webpage (tabled from November)

Susan Perry shared an update about the 'First Employment After Graduation' webpage which is a collaborative effort of various areas across campus and has been discussed in past ACAA meetings. This site features data on top employers, graduate location, continuing education, volunteering, military service, and the overall Kent State experience (from Graduated Student Survey items). Susan asked the committee to consider potential open-ended questions that could be a good addition to the existing survey to provide qualitative data for the site. Discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of including quotes or open-ended comments on the 'Facts and Figures' university webpage if all data can't be included. Therese Tillett suggested that quotes and open-ended responses would more likely be a better fit on an admissions webpage versus the 'First Employment After Graduation' webpage.

There have been additional meetings during the fall semester with Kat Abel, Executive Director of Data Intelligence and Technology (Center of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement), and others to help identify how to connect multiple alumni data sources in a way that is helpful for programs and colleges. Susan shared that there are currently ways to submit updated data in batches or individual records. Jennifer Miller shared that in preparation for Public Health's recent accreditation process, the Center for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement reminded them that updates can be sent to dataentry@kent.edu. The college collected over 500 alumni data points with assistance from an outside firm and uploaded them.

Liz Sinclair expressed continued concerns about combining responses from both associate and bachelor's degree students. Susan responded that on the 'Kent State Experience' section of the webpage, student responses can be examined by degree level. Originally, the beta site had more specificity, but the small number of responses is a challenge until more years of data are collected. Jenny Marcinkiewicz suggested that data could be grouped together into different fields (e.g., social sciences, humanities, STEM, etc.) for a larger college like the College of Arts and Sciences. By grouping data this way, the results may be more useful and avoid displaying programs or majors with small numbers. Jennifer Miller asked how other institutions differentiated information about employment in higher education versus pursuing their education at an institution.

Susan will redistribute the list of FDS/GSS questions to the committee to update new members and remind existing members of the questions that are currently asked. She will also check into response rates and share those with the committee at the next meeting, along with additional information on higher education employment.

V. Annual assessment/Taskstream progress report update

Shannon Helfinstine shared that she will set up meetings with each college to review their National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) data. She will also mention Taskstream 2020-21 assessment report participation. The university is currently down about 30 programs

compared to previous participation, but this is likely due in part to the challenges of shifting to remote instruction. An upcoming meeting for the Assessment Support Group has been scheduled to discuss plans to be more active in the upcoming spring and fall semesters.

VI. Survey data discussions

Shannon shared the NSSE 2020 Overview-Part III data presentation that will be the basis of the upcoming college meetings. The presentation focused on the major field reports categorized by college. Therese Tillett asked about the data collection for the College of Applied and Technical Studies (CATS) and what happens with data from those students if they take most of their courses on the Kent Campus. Shannon responded that the college-level survey results presented to ACAA are focused on the Kent campus and if those bachelor's students took most of their coursework through the Kent campus, they would have received the survey and the data would have been included, most likely in the "Other" major category.

Susan Perry asked each committee member to review their college's data and any questions concerning the data can be brought to the first scheduled meeting in the spring semester for further discussion. She also asked the committee to think about how this data can be made actionable and how to discuss this data in a way that is helpful for colleges moving forward. This topic will be an ongoing discussion during the spring semester. Another important focus for the spring semester will be utilizing the assessment rubrics created by this committee to review the program level assessment reports.

VII. Next meeting: TBA, via Teams

The meetings for spring semester will be scheduled soon via Microsoft Teams.

Meeting adjourned.