

Advisory Committee on Academic Assessment

Minutes

January 20, 2015

Members in Attendance:

Amanda Clark, Joe Clark, Cesquinn Curtis, Erica Eckert, Julie Gabella, Meghan Harper, Gretchen Julian, Cathy Mahrle, Joan Meggitt, Donald Palmer, Mary Parr, David Putman (via phone), Valerie Samuel, Kathy Spicer, Pamela Tontodonato, Patricia Vermeersch, Lindsey Westermann Ayers and Artem Zvavitch.

Members Absent:

Darwin Boyd, Fashaad Crawford, Pratim Datta, David Dees, Michealle Gabrovsek, Deb Huntsman, Janeen Kotsch, Tasha Ledrich, Kimberly Peer, Lynette Phillips and Kathryn Strand.

1. Welcome

- a. Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2014 Meeting – Pam Tontodonato noted a correction to the minutes regarding the amount of Kent State University's share of the recent National Talent Dividend prize. The minutes were approved as circulated with this update.

2. Unit Updates

- a. Joan Meggitt of the College of the Arts (COTA) shared that the entire COTA will adopt a uniform syllabus template starting in Fall 2015. Theatre and Dance has already begun this work, with uniform content and use of learning outcome language, in preparation for the Fall 2015 rollout of the uniform template.
- b. Valerie Samuel of Institutional Research explained that Kent State University recently began participating in the Student Achievement Measure (SAM) project (www.studentachievementmeasure.org). Kent State student progress and completion, as captured by SAM, can be viewed on Kent State's SAM page (<http://www.studentachievementmeasure.org/participants/203517>), as well as on Kent State's College Portrait page (<http://www.collegeportraits.org/OH/KSU>).
- c. Kathy Spicer of AAL outlined the activities of a recent visit to Kent State University by representatives of NOCHE (Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education). On January 9, 2015, several representatives of NOCHE and members of the University of Akron visited KSU to discuss blended and adaptive learning techniques used at Kent State University. The day included a tour of the Statistics Scale-up Lab in the Mathematical Sciences building as well as a tour of the AT&T Classroom in Moulton Hall (EHHS faculty). The afternoon was devoted to the regular meeting of NOCHE, conducted in the Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center.

- d. Erica Eckert of the College of Education, Health and Human Services shared an update regarding units who will be working with graduate students in her Evaluation and Measurement class to develop and refine unit assessment plans.
 - e. Cesquinn Curtis of Undergraduate Studies shared the date of and planned activities for the Kent State University Undergraduate Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity, to be held on March 11, 2015 in the Kent Student Center. More information can be found here:
<http://www.kent.edu/ugresearch/symposium-details>
 - f. Lindsey Westermann Ayers of AAL provided updates about two assessments that will be administered during the Spring 2015 semester.
 - i. COACHE - Kent State has recently entered into a three-year membership with the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE), a national program operating from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. During the first year of its membership (Spring 2015), Kent State will work with COACHE to administer the COACHE Faculty Job Satisfaction Survey to eligible full-time faculty, the purpose of which will be to help the university to learn more about faculty experiences and job satisfaction. Subsequent years will be devoted to sharing the survey findings and working to transform these findings into actionable practices and/or policies at Kent State. Survey administration will begin during the week of January 26.
 - ii. CLA – The Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA+), a test of undergraduate students’ critical thinking and written communication skills using performance tasks and questions, is administered each year to first-year students in the Fall and to graduating seniors in the Spring. This semester, eligible graduating seniors are invited to take the CLA+ between February 23 and April 17 at an available testing session of the student’s choosing.
3. Higher Learning Commission
- a. New AQIP categories - Kathy Spicer shared that the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has revised the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) categories, reducing the number of categories from nine to six. Should the university continue in the AQIP accreditation track, these six categories will be the basis for future university self-studies.
 - b. HLC and related policies - Kathy Spicer shared a draft of a guide to HLC and related policies. The policies pertain to approval of new academic programs or program delivery locations, tracking of out of state student experiences (internships, student teaching, clinicals, etc.), documentation related to program-specific specialized accreditation and faculty credentials.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 PM