



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

**March 16, 2023
Provost Conference Room 222**

MINUTES

Members in Attendance:

Susan Perry (chair), Erica Eckert (co-chair), Vanessa Earp, Susan Emens, Elizabeth Graham, Shannon Helfinstine, Kristina Kamis, Austin Kwak, Rob Kollin, Ran Li, Sean Ratican, Jessica Marzullo, Marilyn Nibling, Elizabeth Piatt, David Putman, Valerie Samuel, Brittany Thomas, William Turek, Hollie Simpson, Elizabeth Sinclair, Linnea Stafford.

I. Welcome and introductions

Susan Perry welcomed all members.

II. Approval of minutes

The minutes from the ACAA February meeting were presented, reviewed and approved.

III. Accreditation and Assessment in Higher Education – assessment reviews

As part of their course, the graduate students in Erica Eckert's class are currently learning about the components needed to write and create a quality assessment plan. In order to review program assessment plans, students were paired up to apply this knowledge and provide feedback on assessment reports using a version of the ACAA assessment rubric. In total, 26 reports were reviewed. Erica will review the feedback prior to disseminating the comments to ACAA.

IV. The Higher Learning Commission topics continued

a. Draft HLC Core Component 4b

A subcommittee of the University Accreditation and Accountable Committee (UAAC) is engaging in an initial review of the assurance argument narrative to remove old initiatives, update existing narrative, add discussion about new initiatives and evaluate evidence quality. ACAA members are asked to review the current Core Component 4b draft narrative to identify where their units can provide updated evidence to convey the impact of assessment of student learning. Additional needs identified by the UAAC subcommittee include incorporating more regional campus and graduate level examples and showing consistency across the university. ACAA members are also welcome to

make suggestions for narrative elements about assessment to add to the argument document.

b. Evidence examples

Clear evidence incorporating assessment is needed to support the assurance argument narrative - examples include meeting minutes that document discussion and use of results, unit handbooks that reference assessment, curriculum maps and direct assessment measures. Members are asked to engage colleagues from their units to initiate collection of additional evidence from 2019 to the present and share out/discuss strategy at the April ACAA meeting.

c. Upcoming conference

The Higher Learning Commission annual conference is this month. Susan Perry and Hollie Simpson are attending, as well as Erica Eckert who is presenting on the importance of IT involvement in an accreditation process. Members can review the conference program and request information on sessions that interest them.

V. Kent Core Re-envisioning and assessment

a. Assessment pilot

During a recent University Requirements Curriculum Committee (URCC) Kent Core assessment pilot, external volunteers utilized AAC&U VALUE rubrics to assess Kent State student artifacts. URCC announced the pilot will expand with Kent State faculty reviewers but continuing with the Critical Thinking and Written Communication rubrics. A summer workshop will help ensure identifying the types of assignments that are best for specific outcomes. Faculty from each college are being recruited to participate.

b. NSSE data

Shannon Helfinstine compiled 2017 and 2020 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) survey items that align with Kent Core outcomes, which encourages incorporating student feedback when re-envisioning the Kent Core. The data will be shared with the steering committee responsible for updates to the Kent Core.

VI. Updates/Announcements

- a.** The 2023 NSSE is open until May 14 for first-year and senior undergraduate students in four-year degree programs.
- b.** The Great Colleges to Work for Survey is open for randomly selected employees until March 31.
- c.** The COACHE Advisory Group work continues with reviewing comments and quantitative data, while aligning themes with Academic Affairs strategic plan initiatives. Susan Perry will provide updates on this work at upcoming leadership meetings.

VII. Next meeting: April 20, 2:00-3:30pm

Meeting adjourned