



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

September 13, 2023

*** University Library Administrative Suite, Urban Conference Room ***

MINUTES

Members in Attendance:

Susan Perry (chair), Wendy Matthews (co-chair), Michael Bell, Jessie Carduner, Aleah Coppin (Guest), Matthew Craig (Guest), Chris Dorsten, Erica Eckert, Susan Emens, Elizabeth Graham, William Hauck, Shannon Helfinstine, Kristina Kamis, Karl Kosko, Austin Kwak, Ran Li, Jenny Marcinkiewicz, Jessica Marzullo, Jennifer Miller, Marilyn Nibling, David Putman, Sean Ratican, Valerie Samuel, Kaylene Trimmer, William Turek, Hollie Simpson, Robin Vande Zande, Sharon Wohl.

I. Welcome and introductions

Susan Perry welcomed all members and introduced new members.

II. Reading of minutes

The minutes from the ACAA April meeting were presented and reviewed.

III. Review ACAA Primer and member expectations

An overview of the Primer was presented noting membership expectations.

IV. Meta-Assessment

The assessment feedback report summary for 2021-2022 will be shared with college deans, chairs and directors along with a reminder of when program assessment reports are due. This is the second year this report is distributed to academic leadership.

The Colleges of Aeronautics and Engineering and Business and Entrepreneurship piloted the upgraded Watermark assessment platform. Plans are to expand use beyond assessment, with capabilities for strategic planning, accreditation self-studies and program review.

V. Updates/Announcements

a. Student Life Study and Survey Committee

Promotional materials for the Student Life Study are being circulated. The goal of this study is to engage and track 10,000 Kent State students throughout their lifetimes to better understand factors important for mental, physical, academic and social health. A university advisory committee was formed to help balance and coordinate data

collection efforts to avoid duplication and survey fatigue. Susan Perry is a member of this committee.

b. 2022 COACHE (Faculty Satisfaction Survey)

The COACHE Advisory Group of faculty and administrators reviewed survey data, focusing on areas of strength and concerns as identified by COACHE. This group also analyzed redacted comments data to help compile a summary with recommendations. Communication plans will be discussed to identify groups to share results and recommendations with this year.

c. Annual assessment report (2022-2023) reminder

The hard deadline for the annual Taskstream assessment reports is September 30. Reminders were sent earlier this semester to regular data reporters and will be included in the feedback report communications to deans, chairs and directors.

d. Watermark PSS training plans for 2023-2024

One year of Taskstream annual assessment reports will be migrated over into the upgraded platform called Planning and Self Study (PSS). For those who didn't submit a 2022-23 report, learning outcomes and measures existing in Taskstream will migrate as well. Drop-in virtual training sessions will be available and on-demand training materials will be created following the implementation of the new platform.

e. Friday Assessment Consultation and Trainings

Shannon Helfinstine offers assessment training every Friday and additional training can be scheduled with her.

f. Assessment award

Applications will be accepted for a \$500 assessment award. Faculty sponsorship of the assessment project is needed, and units need to describe how they will use funds to make improvements to their curriculum and assessment practices.

VI. "Excellence in Assessment" and HLC discussion

a. Excellence in Assessment

The National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) sponsored by APLU and AAC&U recognize institutions implementing successful assessment practices. Wendy Matthews previously worked at an institution that was recognized by NILOA. Wendy shared that the recognition encouraged teaching and assessment innovations from more units, motivated units to design better assessment plans and lead to faculty buy-in.

b. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Discussion

Kent State's HLC reaffirmation visit is scheduled for April 14-15, 2025. Subcommittees are working on various pieces related to this visit. HLC core component 4B emphasizes assessment practices evidence to showcase improvement. As discussed last spring, ACAA committee members were asked to share assessment materials (or encourage collection) from their academic units that can be used as evidence in the assurance argument narrative. Sharon Wohl recommended a backward design approach to identifying evidence by examining what initially instigated recent changes to program curriculum. Shannon will send members probing questions to guide core component 4B evidence collection efforts.

VII. 2023 Spring Survey Results

a. NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement)

NSSE is administered on a three-year cycle to first-year and senior students, most recently March to May 2023. Five of the eight Kent State campuses participated this year. Response rates were lower across the country than in previous years, but the Kent campus rates were average compared to other institutions of a similar size.

Kent Campus results show that quantitative reasoning scores are lower when compared to peer groups (Great Lakes Public, Carnegie Class and NSSE 2022/2023). Members suggested analyzing data focusing on first year to senior comparisons, demographic categories, disaggregated per college or major and students who were retained (or not). Susan discussed with the group if there was a desire to form a subcommittee to review additional data comparisons. Shannon will organize the subcommittee based on volunteers for this work.

b. 2023 Great Colleges Topline results

This survey was sent to a random sample of 600 full-time employees March to April 2023. The overall response rate was 36%. Kent State has higher scores in seven categories compared to 2022 and remained the same in two categories. Faculty and Staff Well-being and Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging were in the very good to excellent category, meaning 75% or greater selected a positive response.

VIII. Next meeting: October 11th, 10:00am-11:30am

Meeting adjourned