

Kent State University
Advisory Committee on Academic Assessment
Minutes

March 18, 2014

Provost Conference Room 222, Library

1. Introduction of Members Present:

Katlyn Carter, Joe Clark, Fashaad Crawford, Cesquinn Curtis, Pratim Datta, Willie Harrell, Cathy Mahrle, Donald Palmer, Mary Parr, Lynette Phillips, David Putman, Cherrie Reger, Valerie Samuel, Kathy Spicer, Patricia Vermeersch, Lindsey Westermann Ayers

2. Approval of January 21, 2014 Meeting Minutes¹: Minutes approved as circulated.

3. Updates

- Office of Accreditation, Assessment, and Learning (AAL) provided the following updates:
 - Multi-Location and Quality Check-Up Visits – Fashaad Crawford distributed copies of Kent State University’s (KSU) Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Multi-Location and Quality Check-Up Visit agendas, and reviewed and discussed the documents with the committee. The Multi-Location Visit will take place on April 1, 2014 and will involve concurrent visits by HLC reviewers to the East Liverpool, Stark, and Trumbull campuses. The Quality Check-Up Visit will take place from April 2-4, 2014 and will involve all three HLC reviewers visiting the Kent campus.
 - Systems Appraisal – AQIP Opportunities for Improvement - Copies of the Systems Appraisal Feedback Report were distributed and the committee reviewed and discussed the document. Additionally, copies of the Quality Summary Narrative, KSU’s response to the Systems Appraisal Feedback Report, were distributed and the committee reviewed and discussed the document. The Quality Summary Narrative was submitted to the HLC in February of 2014.
 - Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA+) – Kathy Spicer explained that AAL staff are currently administering the CLA+ to eligible KSU seniors, who are invited to participate on a voluntary basis (first-year students were surveyed in the Fall of 2013). Bookstore gift cards are provided to all participants as an incentive and thank you for participation. Approximately 50 students have taken the test (one third of the target sample size). The office has added some additional evening sessions.
- Unit/Other Updates
 - Pat Vermeersch shared that Dr. Barbara Broome has been appointed the new Dean of the College of Nursing.

¹ February 18, 2014 Meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

- Valerie Samuel reminded the committee that the Spring 2014 Ohio Association for Institutional Research Conference, hosted by Kent State University, will be held on March 21, 2014 from 8am-2:45 pm in the Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center. Dr. Natasha Jankowski, a Kent State University alumna, will give the keynote address at 9:30am – “The Role of IR in Assessing Student Learning: Managing Shifting Priorities”. Valerie Samuel, together with Fashaad Crawford, Kathy Spicer, and Lindsey Westermann Ayers, will present on the topic of “Best Practices for Accreditation Visits” at 2pm.
- ACAA Subcommittee Updates
 - Assessment – Lindsey Westermann Ayers provided an update on behalf of the Assessment subcommittee. The subcommittee has continued work on its primary charge - assisting in the creation of an annual assessment report to be distributed broadly throughout the university. At each of the subcommittee’s most recent working meetings, the group has discussed survey items that it wants to include in the annual assessment report, and the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan (AASP) goals that these preferred items address. The group has reviewed the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE) and the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), and will review the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) later today.
 - Data Management - Lynette Phillips provided an update on behalf of the Data Management subcommittee. The primary focus of the group has been helping to identify an alternative data management system for academic assessment. Six data management systems have been identified. However, the subcommittee plans to further narrow their list down to three systems/companies. They will then invite representatives from these three companies to come present to the group. When the company representatives do visit campus, the subcommittee would like a variety of folks to test out the products. The subcommittee is also currently in the process of creating a survey to send to current WEAVE users that will assess user needs, and what users would prefer to see in data management system to gain feedback and insight to inform the selection of the data management system.
 - Closing the Loop - Kathy Spicer provided an update on behalf of the Closing the Loop subcommittee. During the Fall and early Spring, the subcommittee visited a number of groups across campus as part of their systematic effort to learn more about how best to create a culture of assessment and affect positive change utilizing assessment findings. At the subcommittee’s most recent meeting, the group generated a list of recommendations based on the data they gathered during meeting visits. First, they recommend creating a resources page with a toolbox connecting faculty with internal and external assessment resources. Second, they recommend the sharing of expertise and best practices across units. Third, they recommend possibly working with the Faculty Professional Development Center (fpdc) to create/put on an assessment leadership conference. The conference will showcase best practices, and help those within the university community to know what resources are available and that there is a community in place.

4. New Business – No new business at this time (addressed as part of Office of AAL Updates, above).

5. Old Business – No old business at this time.

6. Announcements

- Great Colleges to Work For – Kathy Spicer announced that emails have gone out inviting a sample of faculty and staff to participate in the Great Colleges to Work For survey. Please check your email to see if you have received an invitation to participate.

7. Next meeting: April 15, 2014 from 11am-12pm in Provost Conference Room 222 of the Library.