

Program Review and Assessment Committee
April 11, 2013, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., CE 268
Minutes

Present: K. Wills (Chair), R. Aaron, K. Alfrey, P. Altenburger, W. Babler, S. Baker, T. Banta, K. Black, D. Drew, P. Ebright, R. Furqueron, M. Hansen, S. Kahn, S. Lupton, K. Mandernack, K. Norris, J. Pease, G. Pike, J. Plaskoff, T. Ribera, L. Ruch, H. Sanematsu, K. Sheeler, S. Scott

1. March meeting minutes: approved unanimously as circulated

2. Program Review Follow-up Reports

- Kristina Sheeler, Chair of the Department of Communication Studies, reported on the departmental review completed at the end of February. She and her colleagues have just received the report and are reviewing it carefully. The department had not done much collection of the kinds of data needed and secured a PRAC grant to advance that work. They tapped a graduate research methods course to develop and pilot a survey for current and capstone students and recent alumni. One student from the class worked following the course to help develop a longer-term plan for assessment, and the department expects to continue use of the survey to build longitudinal data. They found the sample self-studies from PAII to be helpful, along with data from IMIR. They would have appreciated having more recent data from the Continuing Student Survey, along with oversampling of Communication majors.
- Kevin Mandernack, Chair of the Department of Earth Sciences, reported that the Earth Sciences review was conducted more than a year ago. They relied heavily on the Geography self-study report as a model. Like Sheeler, Mandernack was a new chair when faced with the self-study, and the department had little data about student learning. Alumni data were old, and it was hard to get graduation rates. He added that it would have been helpful to include alumni at the opening reception for the review team. On the whole, Mandernack felt the review was thorough and helpful. The process forced the department to consider its place in the context of the institution. Following the review, the department developed a strategic plan to address the four major questions raised by the report.
- Reagan Furqueron, Director of Foundation Studies in the Herron School of Art and Design, pointed out the unusual circumstances of his program. He had requested the review and wrote the self-study report himself. Undertaking the process increased communication throughout the school, and he was pleased that the review validated his vision for Foundation Studies and helped constructively counter the pull of tradition. He is now working on a system to create an archive of student work. He added that it would have been useful to have more options in determining review team members, especially from the community.
- Following the presentations, there was discussion about challenges with currency of data. G. Pike explained that the cycle of administering NSSE every three years increases the complexity of anticipating more than two years out which units will be coming up for review so that those departments' students are over-sampled.

3. Update on General Education and Core 30

- Sarah Baker highlighted the various overlapping state mandates and planning groups to illustrate the complexity of challenges facing IUPUI and other public institutions. For example, the Indiana Transferable Core frames categories somewhat differently than does Core 30. She reported that several faculty panels are currently reviewing all 327 courses submitted for consideration as fulfilling general education options. The General Education plan enumerates several competencies; courses must map to those as well as to the PULs. The current assumption is that all courses will be at 100 and 200 levels. The panels are nearing completion of their work, which also includes assuring that Indianapolis and Columbus courses are aligned.
- The panels' work should be finished by the end of April and forwarded to the Faculty Council for approval. The Registrar's office will then place the new designations into the system (expected by May 13) to be in effect for Fall 2013 enrollments.
- See Baker's slides circulated separately with these minutes for details.

4. PRAC Grant Proposal

- T. Ribera forwarded a recommendation from the PRAC Grants Subcommittee to fund a proposal from the Department of Tourism, Convention, and Events Management.
- When a question was raised that could not be answered immediately, T. Banta suggested the recommendation be moved to the May agenda pending more information.

5. Update on PRAC Report Questionnaire

- T. Banta reported that about half of the questionnaires had been returned to date. So far, it appears that associate deans and/or PRAC members write the reports, with information contributed by others. The schools generally support external sources of professional development in the area of assessment, though there was some interest in the possibility of custom workshops.
- Banta asked members to encourage their deans to complete and return their questionnaires soon.

6. Adjournment at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by S. Scott and respectfully submitted by P. Altenburger, 2013 Vice Chair