

Program Review and Assessment Committee
Thursday, October 16, 2014 – 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
UL 1126

Minutes

Attendance: K. Alfrey, P. Altenburger, T. Banta, K. Black, C. Brown, W. Crabtree, T. Davis, P. Ebright, S. Graunke, M. Hansen, S. Hendricks, L. Houser, K. Johnson, S. Kahn, J. Lee, K. MacDorman, L. Maxwell, M. Meadows, H. Mzumara, C. Nielsen, K. Norris, J. Motter, J. Orr, C. Schuck, S. Scott, J. Sundt, C. Toledo, W. Wang, L. Ward, S. Weeden

Minutes: approved as circulated

Linda Houser:

The Grants Subcommittee has received several PRAC grant proposals, can accept a few more if they arrive soon, and will bring recommendations for funding to the November PRAC meeting.

Peter Altenburger:

Results of the survey of feedback on September's Learning Objectives Workshop have not yet been tallied. He will share those before or at the November PRAC meeting.

Susan Kahn/Lynn Ward:

Susan Kahn introduced Lynn Ward of UITS to provide a demonstration of the assessment capabilities of Canvas, the new learning management system, and Taskstream, the new ePortfolio platform. Ward showcased Canvas's built-in functionality, noting that the system generally assumes that assessment is being conducted in courses by instructors rather than in programs or by external evaluators. She described the academic hierarchy that enables access to appropriate learning outcomes and the ability to create or use existing rubrics, stepping through the process to course-level reporting. She also gave examples of the kinds of unit-level reports that can be generated. (See slides accompanying these minutes for details.)

Time having run short, Ward will return in November to demonstrate Taskstream capabilities. Kahn announced that the ePortfolio Initiative and Center for Teaching and Learning will present a workshop on November 14 that will include an overview of the Taskstream Directed Response Folio (similar in function to the Oncourse matrix) as well as a hands-on introduction to the WebFolio (similar to the current presentation functionality).

Trudy Banta/Kathy Johnson:

Trudy Banta reviewed development of the PUL assessment cycle now concluding, along with comments from previous PRAC discussions about next stages for PUL assessment. Kathy Johnson asked specifically for PRAC discussion of recommendations from the AAC&U Summer Institute Task Force. Both hope to reignite conversations about how to refresh the process to

ensure reliable and valid assessment. Johnson added that for now the primary focus is on working in the general education framework but with an eye to long-term undergraduate follow-through (e.g., in capstone courses).

In the subsequent discussion, Sue Hendricks noted that the current number of PULs per course creates too much data in addition to all the program outcomes for which many units are accountable. Susan Kahn pointed out that implementation of whatever new approach is adopted will need visible administrative and faculty leaders to avoid cynicism about “trend du jour.” Jennifer Lee stated that results from 200- and 300-level courses were not especially useful. There was some consensus around creating incentives for assessment by encouraging faculty to count Scholarship of Teaching and Learning as part of research in promotion and tenure considerations. Others noted the challenges faced by core and system schools working with campuses that do not have PULs. Karen Alfrey suggested asking schools to include in each PRAC report a brief reflection on what PUL assessment (process and results) would be most helpful for them.

Peter Altenburger distributed an outline on Advancing the PULs and asked all members to submit their thoughts to him by **Friday, October 31**. He will also circulate the outline and notes from today’s discussion to members unable to be present at today’s meeting.

Adjournment: 2:55 p.m.