

Program Review and Assessment Committee
Thursday, January 18, 2024
1:30 – 3:00 pm
Meeting Minutes and [Video Link](#)

Attendees:

Alfrey, Karen; Altenburger, Peter; Braught, Emily; Davis, Julie; Dwyer, Patrick; Easterling, Lauren; Ferguson, Margaret; Giddings, Anita; Haberski, Ray; Hahn, Tom; Helling, William; Hurt, Amelia; Janik, Robbie; Kondrat, David; Lupton, Suzann; Macy, Katharine; Masko, Meganne; McCarthy, Katie; Montalbano, Lori; Morris, Pamela; Ninon, Sonia; Romito, Laura; Sheeler, Kristy; Sosa, Teresa; Walker, Maria; Zahl, David; Zheng, Lin

1. Welcome, Review, and Approve December 2023 Meeting Minutes (5 minutes) – Sonia Ninon, PRAC Chair

Minutes were approved

2. Student Engagement in Assessment (45 minutes) – Nick Curtis, Director of Assessment at University of Wisconsin-Madison and Editor of Research & Practice in Assessment.

“Student partnerships in assessment”: Definition main points: (1) collaborative, reciprocal (2) process (not outcome) (3) all participants contribute equally (but not in the same ways)

Students may not be experts at assessment, course design, learning objectives...but they do have other valuable expertise and experience that are key (From Example 1, Course Redesign)

Students may bring up concerns and questions that the faculty may not (From Example 2, Program Redesign)

Traditional Assessment cycles do not include students beyond using them as data points. It only includes what we, as instructors, think.

In the cycle, the presenter described how students can be involved at each part of the cycle. (Refer to slides for details – excellent ideas for each part of the cycle).

Recruiting tips for this partnership –

1. *Communicate the: Career/skill benefits*
2. *Communicate the: Value and why needed*
3. *Do not recruit based on students’ skills – recruit based on interest and enthusiasm*
4. *Recruit across disciplines to avoid focus on content*
5. *Carefully recruit faculty/staff (willing, focused on teaching, assessment experience)*

Authors Book: Student-Focused Learning and Assessment (Peter Lang) – NILOHA (also focuses on equity)

An Upcoming book will focus on partnership in general

Suggested Resource: International Journal for Students as Partners

Q&A

- *One challenge is getting this rolling – clearly communicate what you are doing and why it is different – finds students that are very interested in this effort.*
- *Students could be compensated for this if possible (PRAC grants!)*
- *What levels? We may already do this in upper levels, but how about entry-level students?*
- *Suggesting that for entry-level classes, include those that have already had as well as are currently in or have not yet had the class. Encourages a mentorship model too! (Mixed model)*
- *Examples given are over time and compensated – what about smaller scale ways to involve students for a stage or step? Yes, gave an example of a single assignment where students develop an assignment rubric. Did this by presenting examples of different levels of completed assignments, to use as a guide: describe why they are good/not good in developing the rubric. It will be in “their language” rather than the faculties, and feedback is likewise in their language.*

3. PRAC Subcommittee Updates (5 minutes) – Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- *Grants Subcommittee (Pamela Morris)
I have received one application so far. Due 1/31. Please submit!*
- *Record Subcommittee (Tom Hahn)
No meetings in the fall – but applications have been distributed to the committee to review. If you have not gotten any, please contact Tom.*
- *PRAC Reporting and Recognition Subcommittee (Karen Alfrey)
Official deadline was 1/15 – still taking submissions for another week or so.
End of February - Review committee will meet and then distribute reports for review through April.*

4. Update on Special Interest Groups (5 minutes) – Sonia Ninon

- Three groups :*
- Assessing Student Belonging – Emily Braught will coordinate*
 - Equity and Inclusive – Sonia will coordinate temporarily*
 - Graduate and Professional – Sonia will coordinate temporarily*

Before next meeting each group should meet once to draft a purpose statement, goals and outcomes, and time commitments.

Goals could be – present to PRAC; present at Institute; apply for a PRAC grant; read a book/research

5. HLC Update (10 minutes) – Margie Ferguson, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, IUI.
 1. *HLC site visit for realignment in November. Letter was received this week all was approved/no major concerns except for more communication (already known and working on). HLC trustees will vote on this in February.*
 2. *Site visit from last year’s reaffirmation of accreditation- single concern raised for May 2026*
Under 3A: inadequate process to differentiate undergraduate/graduate courses
Need improvements to the process for differentiating between undergraduate and graduate courses in a coherent and consistent manner across campus.
Several folks volunteered to help this conversation – to be contacted by Margie
Meganne Masko
Lauren Easterling
Lori Montalbano

Follow up and additional information at future meeting
6. Preview of Next PRAC Meeting (5 minutes) – Sonia Ninon
 - Taxonomies – Debbie Oesch-Minor, David Pierce, and Charity Bishop
 - Authors of the chapter titled “When Done *Well*: A Primer on Where We Are and Where We Are Going in High-Impact Practices (HIPs)” in the book *Trends in Assessment: Ideas, Opportunities, and Issues for Higher Education* – Amy Cicchino, Ken O’Donnell, and Brandi Gilbert
 - Suggestions for April Speaker Topics
7. Announcements and Adjournment (5 minutes) – Sonia Ninon