AOC Summary of Broad Field Science

On March 26, 2012 the Assessment Oversight Committee reviewed the assessment report from Broad Field Science (BFS). Phil Young presented the report. He noted that BFS “is a program with no faculty, no courses, and a growing number of majors.” Its primary goal “is to prepare Early Adolescence/Adolescence Education students to teach middle school science, high school general science, and one or more high school science disciplines (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Earth & Space Science).” It has two student learning outcomes:

1. Broad Field Science graduates shall demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts and practices of the four science disciplines covered in the broad field science licensure of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI).
2. Broad Field Science graduates shall demonstrate knowledge of one or more of the disciplines consistent with DPI certification at the secondary level.

The primary assessment tool for the Broad Field Science major is student performance on the Praxis II General Science examination. Young shared evidence that the BFS majors do perform better than other students on the Praxis II General Science exam.

The AOC compliments BFS on its efforts to assess its students and does not recommend any changes to its assessment tools.