AOC Summary of Mathematics Assessment Report

On November 28, 2011, the Assessment Oversight Committee (AOC) conducted an assessment review of the Mathematics Department. Professors Kevin Haertzen, Barb Barnet, and David Boyles presented the report. Haertzen described what was being done to assess the Mathematics Department’s learning outcomes. Based on the results from the Major Evaluations, Exit Surveys, the Fundamentals of Engineering test and the Praxis II exam, the Mathematics Department is doing a very good job of achieving their learning outcomes. Any feedback from students regarding ways in which to improve seemed inconsistent and primarily based on their individual desires. Overall, their results were very positive.

Boyles presented results from some specific questions from the Basic Math Skills (BMS) assessment. It is noteworthy how those questions had accurately assessed how some students were—and others were not—able to use their math abilities in different contexts. Subsequently, we encourage that these results be used to inform teaching mathematics in the appropriate general education classes.

There were only a few questions from the Committee about the Mathematics assessment program. The AOC believes that the program of assessment in the Mathematics Department is strong, especially its home-grown BMS. The AOC compliments the Mathematics Department for its very good report.