Assessment Oversight Committee

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 24 April 2006
4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.
320 Brigham

Present: (Members) Mohan Gill (EMS), Annie Kinwa-Muzinga (BILSA), Julia McDonald (Faculty Senate), and Qi Yang (EMS)
(Ex Officio) Carol Sue Butts (Provost)

Absent: Lynn Bouck (BILSA), Dennis Ciesielski (LAE), Tom LoGuidice (LAE), Jean Scheppers (APC), Carlos Wiley (Student Services rep), Shane Drefcinski (Assessment Coordinator and UUCC rep), (Student Senate rep)

Guests: Dave Boyles, Chuck Cornett, Esther Ofulue, Wayne Weber, and Tim Zauche

1. Approve minutes of 4/10/06  [No action taken.]

2. Announcements. None

3. Ofulue and Weber AAF presentation

   Esther Ofulue and Wayne Weber shared the results they found while exploring ways to assess the student learning outcomes of the Biology program. The Biology MFAT (Biology Major Field Achievement Test) developed by ETS is their top choice for an assessment tool. However, the pilot study clearly indicated that the MFAT would need to be customized to more accurately assess the UWP Biology program, particularly in the areas of anatomy and physiology and microbiology. Their complete report can be found on the Assessment web page.

4. Chemistry Assessment Report

   Chuck Cornett and Tim Zauche reported on early results of their assessment activities. There were minimal results to share as the plan had only been finalized last year. One area of disappointment was the complete lack of return of the alumni surveys that had been sent out. The Chemistry program is still in the process of creating all of the assessment tools described in their Assessment Plan.

5. Mathematics Gen Ed Report

   Dave Boyles and Julie shared the final draft of the report, “Assessment of Basic Math Skills at the University of Wisconsin – Platteville”, written by Barb Barnet, Dave Boyles, and Kevin Haertzen. In 2004-2005, a Math Skills Assessment Exam, created and modified by the Math Department over the course of several years, was given to at least one section of each course below Math 264 Calculus I satisfying the UWP Mathematics Competency requirement. For comparison (and curiosity) purposes, the exam was also administered to a group of Math 274 Calculus II students. The Department did a question by question analysis and presented histograms showing the results for each course on each question. There was much discussion. Carol Sue suggested that perhaps the discussion could continue at the next meeting.

6. Adjournment  Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, May 8, 2006; 4:00-5:00 p.m.; 320 Brigham