Minutes
Assessment Oversight Committee
March 26, 2007

Present: Carol Sue Butts (Provost), Shane Drefcinski (Assessment coordinator, Undergraduate Curriculum Commission Representative), Peter Hadorn (LAE), Mohaninder Gill (EMS), Annie Kinwa-Muzinga (BILSA), Amanda Trewin (BILSA, APC Representative), Qi Yang (EMS)

Absent: Tom Lo Guidice (LAE), Carlos Wiley (Student Affairs Representative), (Faculty Senate Representative), (Student Senate Representative)

Guests: Curt Fatzinger

1. Approval of Feb 12, 2007 Minutes and Feb 26, 2007 Minutes
Mohon moved to approve, second by Qi.

2. Announcements: A New Taxonomy—Tom Lo Guidice
This topic will be discussed later.

3. Intramurals and Pioneer Activity Center—Curt Fatzinger
The mission statement, purpose and student learning outcomes were provided. One assessment is satisfaction surveys which were administered to intermural managers and randomly to student participants (approximately 2,000-2,500 participants in intramurals/year). One hundred percent (226 responses) return rate on manager surveys because completed when participate on last night. Fifty-three student participant surveys that have been returned so far this time.

Based on survey results, they have achieved student learning outcomes in organizational management skills, people skills, and skills for the real world. It is difficult to determine whether or not successful on 4th outcome. They need to add questions to evaluate this aspect. They may be able to evaluate after students have graduated although it will be difficult to contact alumni.

Amanda suggested that questions be modified to allow students to indicate with they are not involved. Annie suggested that perhaps open-ended questions may allow for students to elaborate on why they aren’t involved. Carol Sue suggested that the outcome is to acquire confidence to get involved, not necessarily to be involved. It is possible that lack of involvement is due to time constraints. It is possible that students are not participating in even though they are developing self confidence to allow them to participate in the future.

Peter commented that assessment relying on subjective impressions of students. He indicated that perception not always the same as reality. For example, when
students are asked “How much have you learned?” their answer is their perception. A test might better show how much students have or haven’t learned.

Curt plans to use satisfaction survey comments to try to make program better. Some comments that are being investigated are enhancing walking trails, repairing discus golf and adding on to field house weight room. Curt was concerned about satisfaction surveys because he had been told that they couldn’t be used for assessment.

Carol Sue indicated that the satisfaction survey is long and complicated. She suggested that perhaps simplifying the survey will increase the return rate. Curt can contact Mark My (UWP Institutional reviewer) to help modify survey. Curt indicates that some additional questions to investigate why students are coming to Platteville and how often they workout is important. Peter told about a technical writing project where student evaluated online evaluations versus paper evaluations. There is some evidence to indicate that online evaluations get higher rates of return. Shane indicated that he gets approximately 66% return rate for general education evaluation (completed online). Dan Fommolt could help get surveys online. Annie suggested inviting the parents to complete the survey.

The PAC serves students, faculty and staff and general public. Data are not available for PAC. Only 2 evaluations were returned. Satisfaction survey available but these do not focus on student learning outcomes.

It is important to continue to collect data to prevent program cuts. Athletics provide stress release for many individuals.

Peter motioned to receive the report.

4. AOC Meeting dates for next year-
Shane will assign programs to meeting dates.

Reports should focus on evidence that students achieve stated learning outcome. It should also indicate what has been learned as a result of assessment. Finally, it should document specific changes that have resulted due to assessment efforts.

Carol Sue indicated that she would be willing to fund AOC members that attend an assessment conference. Please let her and the committee know if you become aware of such a conference.

What is “Significant Learning”? Improvements made to Bloome’s Taxonomy. There are alternative ways to talk about significant learning. Tom may want to present to APC and UUCC as well.

Deadline for Assessment Activity Applications is Friday, March 30, 2007. We may need to extend deadline.
CJ program review and Assessment Activity Proposals will be covered at the next meeting.

5. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn-Mohan; seconded Annie.
Adjourn at 4:50 p.m.