Assessment Oversight Committee:
Minutes
December 10, 2007
4 p.m.  320 Brigham

Present: Carol Sue Butts (Provost), Ben Collins (Faculty Senate Representative), Shane Drefcinski (Assessment coordinator, Undergraduate Curriculum Commission Representative), Marge Karsten (BILSA) and Amanda Trewin (BILSA, APC Representative)

Absent: Mohan Gill (EMS), Peter Hadorn (LAE), Tom Lo Guidice (LAE), Matthew Roberts (EMS), Wiley (Student Affairs Representative) and (Student Senate Representative)

Guests: Val Wetzel

1. Approve minutes of 11/26/07
   Approval of minutes was postponed to January meeting.

2. Announcements.
   The Board of Regents has passed a new sick leave policy. If reports aren’t turned in, there will be a limit put on the number of sick days that can be accumulated. In addition, there will no longer be collegial coverage available. UW faculty were the only state employees to have collegial coverage.

   Beginning with the January meeting, AOC meetings will be held in Ullsvik 1510, Foundation/Alumni conference room.

3. Pioneer Involvement Center—Val Wetzel
   Val provided packet to show various areas in which the PIC is involved.
   The package included many items including CPR (Campus Programming and Relations) keychain, the Greek Connections news letter, and the Guide to Pioneer Life.

   Val also prepared and presented a powerpoint to highlight aspects of the PIC.
   The PIC has a clearly defined mission/purpose. It also has defined learning outcomes and assessment tools.

   Val stressed that PIC isn’t just fun and games but rather also provide learning opportunities for our students. For example, activities associated with the first year experience focus on involvement opportunities and/or leadership development.

   There are 16 areas of student learning outcomes for PIC (refer to page 13 of Guide to Pioneer Life)
Val discussed some of the assessment methods be used to evaluate PIC. A pre- and post-evaluation of students that are in officer roles helps to evaluate skills learned through PIC. Comparing evaluations of orientation with perception of students that have completed Intro to College Life helps determine the effectiveness of the course. Exit interviews are another tool used by PIC. Benchmarking with peer institutions might be effective but national surveys are quite costly.

One issue with which PIC struggles is identifying a way to quantify qualitative data. Students sometimes provide comments but quantifying those comments is challenging at best. Instead, they try to note recurring themes or comments. It was also noted that entire campus not typically included in surveys but rather focus on student organizations and student employees.

Marge move to accept report. Ben seconded.

4. General Education Task Force Update

Shane provided an update on the progress of the General Education Task Force. The committee met on 11/29/07. UW System has embraced a LEAP (Liberal Education and America’s Promise) initiative. Committee members are trying to determine if the LEAP objectives/outcomes are appropriate for our general education objectives/outcomes. To facilitate discussion of that, members of the task force will be reading two books on general education. In addition, members of the task force were asked to approach various committees on campus to ask for feedback.

The process should allow us to evaluate where there are gaps in the education of our students. Then goals will be set with regard to what we want students to learn. Curriculum/classes will be modified or designed. Assessment will help to determine how far they get. Finally, reassessment of goals and process will occur.

5. Adjournment
4:50