Assessment Oversight Committee
Minutes
February 11, 2008
4 p.m.  1510 Ullsvik Hall

Present: Carol Sue Butts (Provost), Shane Drefcinski (Assessment coordinator, Undergraduate Curriculum Commission Representative), Mohan Gill (EMS), Marge Karsten (BILSA), Matthew Roberts (EMS), and Amanda Trewin (BILSA, APC Representative)

Absent: Ben Collins (Faculty Senate Representative), Peter Hadorn (LAE), Tom Lo Guidice (LAE), Carlos Wiley (Student Affairs Representative), and Student Senate Representative

Guests: Michael Compton and James Ball

1. Approve minutes of 11/26/07 and 1/28/08
Minutes approved with minor revisions

2. Announcements.
Fall Convocation will be on August 25, 2008. The format will be the same as 2007.

The grand opening of Ullsvik Hall will be in May (during the Emeriti Luncheon). It will be combined with the grand opening of the Art Building.

3. Soil & Crop Science
The Soil and Crop Science Assessment Report was prepared and presented by Michael Compton. Mike summarized the Program Mission and Student Learning Outcomes. Mike shared a matrix that described assessments used for each program objective. He indicated that some of the assessment tools are still being developed. Internships have provided a valuable experience for students as well as assessment feedback for the program. Mike did note that the students are sometimes more critical of themselves than the intern supervisor. He felt that this might indicate that the student sometimes has unrealistic expectations of themselves. He did note that while employers indicated that the students have good oral communication skills, they need to work on written communication skills. Mike indicated that they had not yet gathered much data related to senior exit interviews, placement data, employer survey of recent graduate data and independent study evaluations. These are all labor intensive and the program is operating with a minimal number of faculty already. They feel that they may need to scale back on some of the assessment methods. Mike felt that all recent changes within the program have been made based on changes in staffing rather than in response to assessment strategies. He also commented that students do seem displeased with the number of adjuncts teaching and the overall instability within the program.

Mike will send an electronic version of this report to Shane.
4. Pioneer Student Center
The Pioneer Student Center Assessment and Benchmarking Report was prepared and presented by James Ball. James summarized the Mission/Purpose and Learning Outcomes for the Student Center. He noted that not all outcomes are limited to the student population but rather to all that use the facility. James discussed assessment strategies being used. He commented that they are still trying to develop an appropriate event feedback form. The Educational Benchmarking Institute (EBI) Student Perception Survey was an assessment that they have found particularly informative. This survey is particularly useful because it is informative with regard to longitudinal trends and also allows for comparison with peer institutions. He did warn that some comparisons are not particularly informative. For example, other institutions fared better than UWP with regard to watching movies. James noted that our students don’t watch movies in the student center because there isn’t a movie theater there. He additionally noted that while we do not have a theater on campus, there are student deals at the local theaters. The assessment tools have provided insight with regard to opportunities for improvement. For example, the survey indicated that student center patrons felt that they could do a better job of expanding their understanding of others whose backgrounds differ from theirs. They were able to ask Institute Specific questions as well. From these, they have discovered that students are not interested in being able to pay with a debit card should there be a fee associated with that service. They also found that patrons feel that there should be more options for vegetarians. Finally, James discussed some changes that have been made in response to assessment data. For example, student seating during peak hours has been problematic. More tables and chairs have been added to the Pioneer Crossing.

Marge moved to receive the report. Matthew seconded motion

5. Adjournment