Minutes
Assessment Oversight Committee
Sep 14, 2009

Present: Duane Ford, Shane Drefcinski, Margaret Karsten, P.B. Ravikumar, Amanda Tucker

Guests: George Smith

1. Members and guests were introduced. Minutes from May 11, 2009 were approved.
2. Shane Drefcinski was re-elected by unanimous vote as Chair of the Assessment Oversight Committee. P.B. Ravikumar was elected as secretary by unanimous vote.
3. George Smith distributed some NSSE handouts and spoke about the Assessment Activity Fund report “NSSE Analysis”. Major points addressed were as follows:
   a. UW-Platteville participated in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) in February and March 2008. Data was supplied to the campus in mid August 2008. George Smith was the principal investigator of the Assessment Activity Fund (AAF) that supported these activities.
   b. There were no major surprises in the survey results as compared to the previous surveys done in 2004 and 2006.
   c. Survey indices were in many areas such as computers etc
   d. NSSE has made series of constructs called benchmarks. USA Today’s survey results summary on the benchmarks comparing UW-LaCrosse, UW-Platteville, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Superior was presented. While many benchmark evaluations of UW-Platteville were comparable to other institutions, some were higher in aspects such as “Student-Faculty Interaction”. Low indices for UWP students included items associated with interaction with diverse populations and attendance at cultural events.
   e. UW-System will support future NSSE surveys. The surveys will be on a 3-year rotation starting Spring 2011 instead of the present 2-year rotation.
   f. Certain aspects of the NSSE framework/logic such as a series of variables on facilities, residence halls etc regarding students’ expectations and experiences to OPEC council for UWP’s internal understanding.
   g. Improvement of Learning Committee acknowledges the good results on the indices of the NSSE survey but suggested that assessment be made if students are really doing a better job on the indices.
   h. Some benchmark definitions by NSSE could probably be moved. For example, diversity could better belong to campus environment rather than educational experience.
   i. To a query by Shane Drefcinski whether fine arts events exposure is deficient, George Smith replied that it is more a perception problem due to lack of knowledge of events.
   j. Duane Ford pointed out that Campus Climate Surveys being planned might help support NSSE surveys.
   k. Shane Drefcinski inquired if AAF grants for NSSE survey be automatic. Duane Ford said other funding for NSSE survey will be looked into.
4. Assessment Oversight Committee’s Purpose and Duties, Responsibilities, and Membership List was distributed. Shane Drefcinski will be the UUCC representative to AOC. Shane Drefcinski went over the purpose, duties, and responsibilities of the AOC for the benefit of AOC members, especially those newly joining the committee. AOC meeting schedules were distributed. Dates for 2009-10 are Sep 14, Sep 28, Oct 12, Oct 26, Nov 9, Nov 23, Dec 14, Jan 25, Feb 8, Feb 22, Mar 8, Mar 22, Apr 12, Apr 26, and May 10.

5. Provost Duane Ford spoke about the “Inclusive Excellence Initiative” that is being developed with the framework of UW-Platteville’s strategic plan. There are three major components in the initiative, namely, compositional diversity, culture and climate, and equity and outcomes. Individual units and colleges are expected to come up with specific plans and goals in 2009. Functional groups will submit plans to colleges’ diversity committees and a university committee will oversee the developments. Provost asked to identify what the Assessment Oversight Committee needs to do in this connection.

6. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

P.B. Ravikumar