Assessment Oversight Committee
Minutes of Meeting on January 23, 2012

Absent: A. Tucker

Guests: George Smith and Bill Haskins

Call to Order
This meeting was called to order at 4:04 PM by Drefcinski (Chair)

Appointment of Secretary for Meeting
Karen Gagne was appointed to take the minutes of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes
The Committee approved the minutes for the December 12, 2011 meeting with a correction to a name spelling in the members present and the change of “to” to “the” after “progress of” in the first line of the announcements.

Announcements
S. Drefcinski gave an update on the progress of to review/revision of the general education curriculum on campus. He stated that the proposals for revisions would be discussed at the February 1st UUCC meeting. However, the issue of writing emphasis courses would be tabled for a later date.

Analysis of 2011 NSSE Data
George Smith from the Teaching & Learning Center gave his analysis of the 2011 NSSE data collected. This survey is becoming the dominant measure of student perception of college experience. The University of Wisconsin-Platteville participated in NSSE five times, most recently in 2011. In 2008 the UW System announced that its institutions would administer NSSE on a three-year rotation instead of a two-year rotation, beginning in 2011.

In 2007 UW System President Kevin Reilly committed the UW System to participating in the newly evolved Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) and its online component, the College Portrait website. This commitment was significant because, among other information, the College Portrait webpage for each participating institution also carried portions of that school’s most recent NSSE data.
George reported that the results for the 2011 survey were significantly lower than those of the 2008 administration of NSSE. Compared to the UW System means, UW-Platteville’s means were much lower this year ... statistically significant at the .001 level. And the poor perceptions of UW-Platteville were registered by both first-year and senior participants.

One significant aspect of the results: a 4:1 ration in the wrong direction regarding the inclusion of diverse perspectives in the classroom. This and other results will be posted on the VSA’s College Portrait website. This would allow comparisons among institutions by prospective students and their parents. This would suggest significant implications for recruiting and for the overall image of the campus by peers. These results will remain on the College Portrait website until our next NSSE administration in 2014.

The creation of an action plan to address specific NSSE items is a high priority. The perceptions of the 2011 seniors might be taken with a grain of salt, since these students are most likely no longer on campus. To focus on improving the perceptions of 2011’s first-year students would seem more justifiable, since we might still influence these undergraduates.

While these results ought to be disturbing to the chancellor, provost and deans, George reported having NO response from anyone regarding this matter.

One problem with the survey: we are looking at two different populations, which would skew the results. Regardless, there are plans of working with Admissions, in the area of training, etc. We agreed that the strategic plan to measure the success to specific outcomes, etc.

However, it was also noted that since the survey had only a 35% response, how much should we take as fact? Should we set policy based on the survey that had this percentage, when usually people who have negative issues do the survey?

George noted that we could focus on a few key items and build workshops specifically geared towards addressing these items, such as diversity in Southwest Wisconsin.

The committee agreed that AOC would be the appropriate committee to assess what the administration is doing about these results and that we should write a letter to the chancellor and provost, among our proactive activities to address the issue. We agreed to come up with 5 items from the NSSE analysis--items that are statistically significant to address. We need should look at Appendix C and D for these items.

George will return in 3 weeks, at the Feb 13th meeting for this discussion.

**MS Project Management**

Bill Haskins came to discuss the 2011 Assessment Plan and Results. This program started in 1998 and is the largest of the campus’s online Masters programs. Since 1998 the program has admitted 1278 students, with 528 currently active and 351 graduated.
The program went through APC review in 2006 and 2008 accreditation. A more in-depth report to what we were presented with goes to the grad council every year. The survey assessment would measure 6 Student Learning Outcomes.

Four tools were used to evaluate the program:
1. Portfolio of Student Writing
2. Evaluation of students as they complete Capstone Research Paper
3. Post-Graduate Questionnaire
4. Attainment of the Project Management Professional credential

Results are provided on the charts provided in the last to pages of the provided report. Several changes were made due to assessment, including new courses, redesigning existing courses, and instructor feedback, among other things. These changes are listed on pages 5 and 6. Shane asked if there were any specific areas of concern based on the results. Bill reported, like in the NSSE, the area of diversity remains an issue. They are trying to improve. They are also concerned about the low number of responses to the survey and are looking for ways to ensure that students complete the post-graduate questionnaire, for example.

Dominic asked, regarding Outcome 3 regarding interpersonal skill development, how was this measured through an online course? Bill stated that this is assessed through the Capstone project, which must involve teamwork.

**Adjournment**
Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM