Assessment Oversight Committee Meeting
March 26, 2012

Present: Dominic Barraclough, David Boyles, Shane Drefcinski, Dan Enz, Eric Farrell, Karen Gagne, Steve Yunck, Art Ranney

Minutes taken by Karen Gagne

Guests: Philip Young and Jeff Buboltz, Broad Field Science

I. Minutes from the AOC March 12 meeting were approved.

II. Announcements
Drefcinski announced that the new general education model was approved by the UUCC. For Natural Science gen eds, both courses would require a lab component.

III. Assessment of Broad Field Science
Phil Young and Jeff Buboltz presented the report. BFS “is a program with no faculty, no courses, and a growing number of majors.” Its primary goal “is to prepare Early Adolescence/Adolescence Education students to teach middle school science, high school general science, and one or more high school science disciplines (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Earth & Space Science).” It has two student learning outcomes:

1. Broad Field Science graduates shall demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts and practices of the four science disciplines covered in the broad field science licensure of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

2. Broad Field Science graduates shall demonstrate knowledge of one or more of the disciplines consistent with DPI certification at the secondary level.

The primary assessment tool for the Broad Field Science major is student performance on the Praxis II General Science examination. Young shared evidence that the BFS majors do perform better than other students on the Praxis II General Science exam.

The AOC asked how common the field was. Philip stated that it was very common and it is the primary route take for teaching at the elementary and middle school levels. The AOC complimented BFS on its efforts to assess its students and did not recommend any changes to its assessment tools.
IV. Assessment Activity Fund Grants
Proposals Due May 4th.
AAF is to promote improvement of assessment through grants to faculty and staff at UW-Platteville. Funds will be allocated by the Vice Chancellor to support a variety of activities associated with assessment on the UWP campus.

Assessment Activity Fund grants are not limited to academic programs. Proposals from all areas are welcomed, with preferences for 2012-13 given to assessment projects that address the shortcomings identified in the most recent NSSE Survey.

Applications forms for AAF grants may be obtained from the Office of Sponsored Programs or http://www.uwplatt.edu/~sponprog/aaf.html.

The AOC will consider the recommendations of academic or administrative units in selecting proposals to be funded. Support could include funding of salaries, travel, training, software and supplies appropriate to the proposal. AAF proposals range: $500 to $3,000.

AAF funds will be available after July 1, 2012, and must be expended by June 30, 2013.

AOC to outline the results of the assessment project, not later than September 1, 2013.

V. Meeting adjourned at 4:25.