



University Assessment Committee Meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2021; Time: 12:30 – 2:00 PM
Location: Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Members Present: Omar Attarabeen, Fulton Burns, Yi-Po Chiu, Kim DeTardo-Bora, Trish Gallagher, Andrew Gooding, Andy Hermansdorfer, Will Holland, Marty Laubach, Lori Howard (for Bonnie Lawrence), Paula Lucas, Sarah-Frances Lyon, Karen McComas, Ralph McKinney, Tim Melvin, Adam Russell, Asad Salem, Larry Sheret, Chris Sochor, and Mary Beth Reynolds

Members Absent: Loukia Dixon, April Fugett, Nicki LoCascio

1. Trish Gallagher moved and Marty Laubach seconded approval of the minutes from the December 14, 2020 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved with two minor editorial corrections.
2. **Program assessment reports:** Mary Beth Reynolds thanked committee members who have completed evaluation of 2019-2020 assessment reports and said she hopes to have feedback to programs by March or April.
3. **Syllabus Reviews-Spring 2021:** Mary Beth reviewed the process to access syllabi in MU-BERT. She explained that committee member will review five spring 2021 syllabi from the College of Health Professions. She and Adam will provide the assignments, along with a fillable PDF review form and copy of the BOG Syllabus Policy for guidance. They will send these materials to committee members no later than Monday, February 15.
4. **FYS Update:** Karen McComas shared that she, Sherri Smith, and April Fugett are working on revamping the FYS course. She noted that Sherri had sent an email to present and former FYS instructors yesterday afternoon with details. Karen explained that all sections of FYS will continue to focus on five outcomes (Integrative Thinking, Inquiry-Based Thinking, Intercultural Thinking, Information Literacy, and Metacognitive Thinking) of the Baccalaureate Degree Profile. However, beginning this fall, the course will focus on a social or civic issue, employ hands-on pedagogies, use formative assessments and authentic summative assessments, and be built around one high impact practice.

Using a predictive model developed by April Fugett, all incoming first-year students will be assigned to either large (120 person) or small (26 person) FYS sections. Interested faculty are invited to apply to teach FYS, with applications due by Thursday, February 18. FYS faculty will participate in a faculty learning community (FLC) this spring. They will receive a stipend both for participating in the FLC and during the semesters in which they teach FYS.

There will be a question/answer meeting this Friday (February 12) at 2:00 PM. Those interested should contact Ethan Tackett so that they may be invited to join the Teams' meeting.

5. **Newsletter Update:** Adam Russell announced that the second assessment newsletter has been published on the Assessment website and will soon be distributed more widely. We thanked Chris Sochor for contributing to the article about Blackboard Outcomes, and Kim DeTarda-Bora, whose assessment program in criminal justice was featured in this newsletter.
6. **General Education upload request update:** Mary Beth showed the outcomes available for assignment alignment within Blackboard. She noted that, if capstone instructors feel their students' projects align to one of the Baccalaureate Degree Profile (BDP) outcomes better than to the AAC&U Critical Thinking rubric, there is now a place for them to align the artifact both to the capstone designation and to the appropriate BDP outcome. Discussion ensued as to whether we could start requiring alignment of all capstone artifacts. After some hesitation, Mary Beth agreed to pursue this with the Faculty Senate.
7. **Assessment Day-Spring 2021:** Adam Russell explained that we are no longer allowed to use gift cards as prizes for Assessment Day. This year, we plan to offer one apple watch as a grand prize (with participants of all Assessment Day activities) in the drawing, and to offer direct payments of \$50 each for each separate activity. Mary Beth encouraged committee members to encourage their colleagues to collect feedback from students via electronic surveys.
8. **Quality Initiative Update:** Will Holland and Karen McComas shared updates regarding current planning for Marshall's next Quality Initiative. They both stressed the importance of carefully planned diversity related discussions and experiences and their impact on participants. April Fugett is working to develop assessments that will measure both short- and long-term effects on participants' attitudes and behavior. Mary Beth promised further updates in May.
9. **General Education Short Report Update:** Mary Beth said that reports will continue to be posted to the General Education Assessment Team as they are completed.
10. **Additional Business:** Several committee members shared their experiences this semester. A few reported teaching in-person classes with social distancing or reduced size sections. The latter is especially true for labs. The importance to listen to students when they need to share concerns and challenges/frustration with the learning platforms was raised.

There was concern about first-year students having points deducted for missing assignments that they said they had uploaded to Blackboard. Chris Sochor told everyone to please tell students NOT to submit their assignments using a phone app, but rather to use a computer to do this. The reason for this recommendation was that the phone app will not record that the student attempted to submit the assignment. Larry Sheret also talked about issues specific to University Libraries, such as the open access publication policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth Reynolds