



Academic Assessment Council Meeting

April 15, 2015 at 2:30pm EST

The following Council members were present: Mary Lewnes Albrecht, Kirsten Benson, Toby Boulet, Charles Cwiek, David Dupper, R.J. Hinde, Nancy Howell, Joanne Logan, Michael McFall II, Corinne Nicolas, Taimi Olsen, Masood Parang, Carol Parker, and Kathleen Thompson.

Learning Outcomes Assessment- Dr. Corinne Nicolas gave a [presentation](#) on assessment reporting trends. Overall, few programs conducted “no assessment” without a justification. To date, there has been good use of assessment results and taking action – 97% reported results, and 80% reported on actions taken. Council discussion ensued about 1) no actions taken choice; and 2) the problem with different programs interpreting differently. The Council decided that these issues need clarity, so that interpretation is the same across programs. Common Reporting Issues. The Council reviewed the most common issues with reports.

- 1) No comparison with the results from the previous cycle.
- 2) No rationale for an extended cycle.
- 3) Incomplete fields.
- 4) No benchmarking/desired results included.
- 5) No action taken for all outcomes several years in a row.

The Council agrees that UT needs to develop a culture of comparing learning outcomes year to year.

Assessment Best Practices- Dr. Corinne Nicolas discussed what is a good report? Focus on student learning, focus on improvement, not compliance, engage program faculty, are useful to the program, and are sustainable. Question on data triangulation – using multiple methods to confirm findings, can be students, employers, and alumni; senior exit interviews, rubrics, and major field tests.

Annual Assessment Life Cycle- Dr. Corinne Nicolas reminded members of the Council that September 15, 2015 is the submittal deadline for the next 2014-2015 assessment reports. Council discussion ensued about managing changes in leadership for who handles assessment and ways to ensure compliance assist is updated with change.

FAQs – Dr. Nicolas handed out the [Learning Outcomes Assessment- Best Practices](#) chart to the Council. Council members were encouraged to bring assessment questions from their constituencies, to build a FAQ containing “the most common questions.” Questions to be added to the FAQ from Council were:

- 1) How do I set benchmarks? (Goldilocks Syndrome)
- 2) What are an appropriate number of outcomes?
- 3) What is the purpose of assessment? (FAQ needs to stress improvement as the purpose, and not compliance.)

Bylaws and Membership Rotation- Dr. Mary Albrecht discussed that Council Bylaws do not have a succession and/ or membership rotation plan. Dr. Albrecht suggested making Council positions a three-year term. Discussion ensued. Dr. Hinde suggested giving current Council members the options of rolling-off the council, and extending one or two additional years. Dr. Parang suggested keeping everyone currently on Council on and adding one-third new membership for next year. Then offering current Council members the chance to roll-off the council in 2017. Council members are to inform Dr. Albrecht as to their preference on staying with the Council. Dr. Albrecht will determine which rotation proposal works based on Council responses.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm.

Minutes prepared by Karen M. Held