Assessment Council Meeting

May 14, 2021

9 AM

Attendance: Kelley Woods, Nathan Myers, Greg Bierly, Malea Crosby, Whitney Nesser, Shelley Arvin, Bailey Bridgewater, Heather Miklozek, Laura Froelicher, Maggie Dalrymple, Ellen Malito-Green, Chris Fischer, Edie Wittenmyer

Review of Minutes-Minutes passed without revision or opposition.

Coordinator Reports

Foundational Studies wrapped up their assessment. Look forward to improvements in the coming year. Assessment report review and comments are done. Reporting ad-hoc will continue as a small group. We are preparing gathering for the IUPUI assessment council. Co-curricular assessment will move forward, as will development of career readiness assessment and reviewing career readiness in the curriculum with the new executive director. Revisit the idea of the comprehensive learner recorder. Think about program review in a new way in light of Graduate College streamlining. Will happen less frequently, but will give faculty more time to reflect on changes. Working with Susan Powers to avoid duplication of other processes. Also looking at how academic program review can help with institutional planning. Sense that reviews illuminate things faculty already know and individual faculty can make changes. However, changes involving institutional report are less common. Looking at changing program review to address this to create actionable results. Program review can also be used to identify programs to reduce in size or sunset. Liz Brown stressed that faculty want to be heavily involved in these discussions.

Session was titled Financial Sustainability Collaborative: Assessing Academic Program.

EAB has assessed certain components that drive institutional value. This session was about looking at academic programs and determining their place in the university’s sustainability. Combine numbers and qualitative information. Keep in mind that programs can contribute in areas like community and alumni engagement.

For those whose terms are ending, notify your college leadership and let them know if you plan to continue or if you want to pass the baton to someone else. Each college decides membership differently.

Questions and Announcement

Bailey discussed Foundational Studies. Four workshops were held for faculty. Talked about four learning outcomes for Cultural Diversity and Global Perspectives. Two were found to apply to both, and then faculty can choose from the other two. Ethics and Social Responsibility has been found to be performing at Milestone 1. Social and Behavior Studies had lower scores that were closer to Benchmark. Talked about better aligning assignments with outcomes. Some noted that student performance may have been affected by the pandemic. Won’t really know how much of a factor the pandemic was until the next assessment. There will be discussions about better aligning assignments. Also discussed syllabus development so that the link between learning outcomes and assignments is more explicit.

In regard to Student Success, there is new personnel and new assessment plans will be forthcoming. Will also start working on the assessment plan for Project Success, to be funded by a Lily Grant.

Malea reported on faculty focus groups. Eight faculty attended. Discussion involved duplication of reports. Representation from all colleges across campus. There were questions about frequency, possibly moving to a two-year cycle. Also a question of whether programs could choose from three options in regard to deadlines. A two-year cycle was said to produce more data, but also may not result in change. Also questions about whether career readiness should be in the reporting document. Timeline of feedback was a challenge to some programs in regard to making changes. Comments about Kelley being awesome in regard to being visible and providing feedback. Also concerns about getting faculty by-in.

The survey also talked about reporting every other year, possibly for high-performing programs. Also comments on survey about reducing assessment for programs that do accreditation work. Next reports will be due on October 15. Programs up for accreditation next year will be offered an alternative form of reporting for next year. Creating a PDF form is something Kelley will work on over the summer.

Whitney noted that some faculty are frustrated by duplication between assessment and accreditation. However, the programs are still part of ISU and there is information that the assessment process gets at that are not addressed during accreditation. Some institutions check with accreditors and see what information is being reported to determine if accredited programs have to participate in assessment. Some places use checklists regarding what information is provided in accreditation report. Faculty can add information not addressed in the accreditation report. Multiple deadlines could potentially allow for timelier feedback. Right now nothing is off the table except ending assessment reporting all together.

Chris Fischer noted that faculty should start making changes if they see problems in the data. Kelley noted that reporting process is about program faculty identifying problems and making changes, not responding to her comments specifically.

Ellen discussed co-curricular assessment. New VP will be starting in a couple of weeks. Assessment reports will be turned in soon and reviewed by the assessment committee, as well as Ellen and Kelley. Aim to provide feedbacks to units by mid-to-late July and then have them write their plans for the fall. Some units would like to start using a different timeline, but since co-curricular assessment is so new they will be keeping the current schedule for the time being. Desire is to emphasize that assessment is collaborative, and not just the work of Kelley and Ellen. Kelley will be touching base with other people in co-curricular units about assessment in the near future.

Shelley noted that the student writing artifact repository was supposed to go before Senate, but did not do so before the end of the year. It should happen in the fall. In the meantime, if the repository is finished during the summer, faculty can begin storing items in it. Will also try to make sure that the user manual for the system is complete. Shelley will also work with a colleague over the summer about improving assessment in the library.

Kelley thanked everyone for a great year and look forward to in-person meetings in the fall. Participation letters for FAD should be coming out soon.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.