Assessment Council Meeting

May 8, 2020

9 AM

Andreas, Deanna, Eric, Malea, Bailey, Hung Ha, Alyce, Ellen, Greg, Laura F., Paula, Edith, Kelley, C. Fischer, Cary Burch

Started with review of the minutes.

Andreas moved, Greg seconded.

Member Reports

Bailey-Foundation Studies Workshop

Wed. (Literary Studies), Thurs. (GCPD), and Friday (Quant.). Discussing results and adjusting rubrics. Do we need to adjust expectations to get the students doing what we want? Work on incorporating writing into small assignments. Make it manageable and how to grade efficiently.

Ellen-Student Affairs will conduct student survey on the impact of COVID-19. Working with outside contractor used for another assessment. Asking COVID and demographic questions. Hoping to launch Monday, but working through the steps. Try to encourage students to take it to assess impact.

Kelley-Hopefully will give information on how they are adjusting and the impact. Looking more at how they are doing rather than assessment of university.

Ellen-Results in late summer. Benchmarking in October. Wait for all data to be aggregated.

Kelley-National Collegiate Health Assessment. Good sample size.

Coordinator Report

Co-curricular Assessment-Working with Ellen on next steps. Talk about reporting expectations. Emails going out soon about next steps.

Comprehensive Learner Record-ID competencies for whole institution. Map out activities for all outcomes. Demonstrate where competencies have been met. State next week-virtual meetings. Meet with all other instituions. Where are they at? What resources used? Starting conversations with provost before transition. Assessment Council may be called to participate.

HLC-Deadline last Friday. Push to ready for review. All evidence collected, narrative written. S. Powers puts in one voice. Volunteer external reviewers. Will provide feedback. Final draft-mid-July. Virtual reviews on-going. Accreditation visit will go on. Hope to see them on-campus Sept. 14 and 15. Student surveys went out. Results will be given during visit or subsequent report.

LMS-ISU Today and emails. Upcoming demos. Week of May 18. Blackboard-Ultra. D2L, and Canvass. Similar schedules for each. Faculty can sign up for a sandbox account. Must be requested. Students can request as well. Can do through OIT or email. Encourage people to give feedback. Mostly on schedule.

Andreas-No confirmation on LMS sandbox. Kelley will follow-up. Will get them to post on update on when they will respond and how.

Edith-Email does not provide correct information about the contact information.

Andreas-OIT did fix the incorrect address issue.

Kelley will contact OIT about making sure issues are addressed.

Policy Language Update: Faculty Exec and Senate. Language approved. Jason Trainer’s position title was changed. The body understood the changes and the rationale. Hope to create institutional stability for the changing institution to allow us to act in evolving ways.

Kelley: Thank members of the Provost Award’s committee. 17 reports total. UG: Physics. G: Occupational Therapy program.

NILOA-EIA as a tool to help us direct our institutional improvement over the next several years. Will help to direct us along with the HLC feedback. Chart a course for improvement. EIA-Big undertaking. 21 dimensions. Joe, Bailey, Denna, Kelley, and Molly Hare when through the rubric. Group’s scores provided. Kelley gave an opportunity to review.

Bailey-External stakeholders and students in assessment-Area of weakness. Need to do more with these constituencies.

Kelley-Recognized theme. NILOA says excellence means including stakeholders at all phases, including conducting assessment. Think more broadly about the process of assessment.

Joe-Agree weak on external. A lot of the institution level material, had difficulty differentiating what institution level means. Each college does its own thing, as well as department. Looking at collective institution, it was less obvious. Hard to find where we apply the same metric across institution.

Eric-Integration is a challenge. Inconsistencies horizontally and vertically.

Kelley-Vertical integration in colleges, but not at the institution level. Institutional outcomes: Foundational Studies outcomes. Not all departments map on to that.

Grad outcomes-Programs map on. Don’t do an institutional snapshot. Loose coupling. Lack of clear, transparent integration. Differentiaton between colleges. Some look at it for P&T, some don’t.

C. Fischer-One challenge-even in departments where it is easy to map onto Foundational Studies, they look at assessment narrowly in terms of what they want to accomplish as a department. Get department to think about these categories. Even in accreditation standards, they can address the need to communicate effectively or think critically. Dealing with diversity and international issues. There are commonalities, we just don’t think about them. Courses in majors-nowhere is critical thinking addressed explicitly. Report notes there are lack of throughlines. Multi-year challenge.

Kelley: Agree. Large and unwieldy concept. Don’t want people to feel forced into. Comprehensive learner record could become the institutional perspective. Meant to address broad areas. Programs thinking more narrowly.

Greg: Agrees with everything said. Metrics have shifted over time. Have become more sophisticated and focused on learning. Has become siloed. Have improved leadership. We are building on a fragmented history. Universities must have gone through a similar journey.

Kelley: Things have changed a lot. The pain of assessment has changed. With the post-COVID fallout, we could be snapping back into painful areas like retention. Regarding other institutions, have presentations on EIA process. 3 areas that cannot be self-assessed. Regard looking at your strengths/weaknesses and making changes. Other universities say it allowed them to zero in on areas of improvement. Meaningful inclusion of external stakeholders. Not many institutions have designation, they are willing to consult. Chart improvement, celebrate strengths. Jordan Trachtenburg-Rose-Hulman-have designation. Learning and growing process. Will be looking at this and HLC feedback in fall to determine what to craft next. Thanks to committee.

New Business

Annual Report due in June. Will share. This summer-HLC prep. Reassure faculty that assessment is a messy process. Email to department chairs. May want to collect data before summer. Some elements may not be able to be assessed because of the transition. Wind-down phase. Deanna-2nd year virtual. New GA-Ebenezer from Ghana.

Minutes vote

Two abstentions

All others yeas.

Motion to adjourn. Greg, Andreas.

Kelley: Letter of service coming. Put into FAD. Take care, enjoy summer.