Assessment Leadership Team

9/18/2020

9AM via Zoom

Attendance: Kelley Woods-Johnson, Shelley Arvin, Greg Bierly, Brian Stone, Laura Froelicher, Joe Harder, Paula Jarrard, Ellen Malito, Nathan Myers, Edie Wittenmyer

Minutes, 4 Yes, rest abstained. Minutes approved.

Chair’s Report

Meeting with Chris Fischer to talk about changes to UDIE categories. New HIP (High Impact Practices) category. New writing intensive courses are being created. Draw on previous assessment data to close the loop. Looking toward writing across the curriculum program. Include hands-on and experiential writing, less focus on research writing. Focus on things like reflective reaction to a portfolio. Seems like a good way to get a grassroots movement going. UDIE instructors have already signed on to some assessment and oversight. Shelley A. interested in the effort from an information literacy perspective. We want to improve student scores in regard to research writing.

Kelley noted email regarding change to the UDIE category and HIP. Greg had discussions about how it would affect honors. New HIP classes are aligned with honors thesis classes. Greg also thanked the ALT leadership for their work in advance of the HLC visit. Thought it was fantastically handled.

Kelley thanked people for their work during the HLC visit and appreciated people sharing their perceptions and views. Other sessions did not have people providing as much feedback.

Review of HLC Visit

Reviewers provided some perceptions about willingness to engage in the process. Described ISU as one of the most open, participatory campuses. Received both critiques and supportive comments. Seem both valuable and genuine and supported the material in the argument. It was good to hear that visit and argument material aligned. Kelley asked for others’ perspectives on the visit.

Greg attended the session with the deans. It was a 45 minute session, but few questions were addressed due to time. Diversity and inclusion was addressed. Strategic planning was discussed. Nothing seemed to alarm the reviewers. Program review was discussed in the dean session, but not in the assessment session.

Ellen-Student Affairs session was similar. Asked about how they fit into the educational mission.

Shelley-In the faculty session, they asked how things were going with COVID-19. People were reserved, particularly considering that people are concerned. People indicated that they felt things were going as well as they could.

Laura-Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion session. Asked about how we are supporting students with their identity. LGBTQ issues, Title IX issues were raised. Athletics and gender were discussed.

Kelley-Some sessions were added late by the reviewers. Distance education meeting was added late as well. Some surprise about the focus on the present and future, as opposed to the last ten years. In the assessment session, a significant amount of discussion was about reporting rates. Some feedback expected, didn’t expect it to be the main line of questions. 100% response is not common anywhere. It is common to talk about response rates in the assessment community. Kelley might have addressed it more in the argument if she had expected it to be such a focus. Moving forward we just need to hang tight. Will receive the report in thirty days. Have opportunity to make factual corrections. HLC will review the report see if the reviewers were too easy or too hard. This is an attempt to normalize the review process. No one expects serious concerns, may have some concerns where we have to submit an interim report. Thanks to those who attended. Kelley asked for other questions.

Shelley-Curious to see what they say about assessment. It was a big push ten years ago. Will they see sufficient progress?

Kelley-Criterion 4b is the most cited criterion for issues. When people are getting interim actions it is often about assessment. May receive interim actions regarding the reporting rate. Significant improvement in general education and foundational studies. Reviewers expect sound practices, but not flawless. Needs to be meaningful engagement. We seem to be on the right track.

Shelley-Feedback may cause some units on campus to better meet assessment standards.

Kelley-Hopefully people see it as an opportunity to improve, not a punishment. Provost wanted no interim actions.

New Business

Annual Report is done now. Kelley wants to put a committee together to talk about the reporting process. Some professors say the forms are not reflective of the activities happening in departments. Who should be represented in the group?

Shelley noted that a committee was supposed to examine reporting, but Kelley indicated that the committee was interrupted by COVID-19. People are concerned that reports are duplicative and adding to the workload. Talking with College of Technology on streamlining their reporting processes.

Brian-Where did the feedback come from?

Kelley-From meetings across campus. Areas with lower scores or with missing reports. Held off on changes until after the HLC visit.

Brian-Suggested talking to people to solicit suggestions, but it could be opening a can of worms.

Kelley-A lot of different potential approaches. Looking at a group of 5-7 people to guide process. Associate dean would be a good resource.

Greg-Some units have more staff structure for collecting data. If there are staff members who play a bigger role in terms of data collection and analysis, it would be good to have those voices heard.

Kelley-Having reps from areas that have to provide many reports. Edie indicated that it would be a good idea to bring such people into the process.

Will share with Assessment Council to get their feedback. Look at practices at colleges and universities. Form has stayed similar since 2014. A lot of other options could be better for helping programs to improve.

Edie-Assessment highlighted in her department. Coming up for accreditation. People had an “a-ha” moment about assessment. Trying to help faculty to develop rubrics. Questions about how to generate numbers. Accreditation has opened people’s eyes and could be an opportunity to get people involved.

Joe-LMS announcement made? Kelley-Not yet, contract is still being finalized.

Joe-College of Business plans to continue to use goal-aligned rubrics regardless of selection.

Edie-A lot of concern about the LMS issue. There has been a lot of material generated recently, concerns about transferring over to the new system.

Kelley-Regardless of selection, all of them require transfer assistance which the vendor must provide.

Joe-Change over should be a one-time burden. Once you get faculty to buy-in to rubrics, you can collect a lot of information on the backend. We need to have training assistance.

Kelley-All vendors provide some training. Transition date will be in 2022. Announcements? If anyone is interested in attending the IUPUI Institute for Assessment, the link is now open for registration. It is free and on-line.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 AM.