

Action Project

Project Title	Assessment Communication
Created	2-7-2014
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Reviewed	NA
Status	Active

Project Goal

The Assessment Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Academic Assessment (ACAA) has been assembled to examine the University's current academic assessment process, focusing on all student learning and faculty/student engagement surveys administered through the Office of Provost and the Office of Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness (RPIE). The group will determine whether data collected is sufficient to assess student learning and faculty/student engagement and if data is being distributed and communicated to the relevant parties throughout the university for practical utilization of the data. The subcommittee will also generate an annual assessment report, organized to reflect the goals of the new academic affairs strategic plan.

Reasons for Undertaking this Project

Assessing and communicating findings related to student learning and engagement are high priorities of the university. The recent implementation of the university's academic affairs strategic plan presents an opportunity to evaluate current assessments in relation to the strategic plan. Any gaps in assessment identified by the assessment subcommittee present an opportunity for the university to improve upon what it learns and later communicates about the state of learning and engagement. This project also aims to be one approach in addressing the feedback received from the most recent systems appraisal that noted the university needs to define and systematize their processes for data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

Organizational Areas Affected

The Assessment Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Academic Assessment represents a broad selection of representatives from across the university, including faculty, staff, administration and students. All groups will work collaboratively to complete this project. The committee is co-chaired by a tenured faculty member and the Assistant Provost for Accreditation, Assessment and Learning. Most university departments, programs, divisions and units will be involved in and affected by this project in the form of broadly disseminated student learning and engagement (assessment) findings.

Key Organizational Process(es)

This action project aims to directly improve the analysis and dissemination of assessment data obtained from student learning and engagement assessments (e.g., Collegiate Learning Assessment, National Survey of Student Engagement, Faculty Survey for Student Engagement, etc). Additionally, this project aims to enhance student learning and engagement by using the collected data as needed, to make any necessary improvements or modifications. To the extent that any important gaps are

identified in relation to the academic affairs strategic plan, this project also may prompt the consideration of adding and/or using different assessment tools/approaches.

Project Time Frame Rationale

This action project will take three academic years to complete. During the current academic year, a subcommittee was assembled and charged with this action project. During this year, the subcommittee began to review the various assessments conducted by RPIE and the Provost Office that relate to student learning and faculty and student engagement. This work will continue into the 2014-15 academic year to further understand how each assessment has been administered and analyzed in the past. Also, during the 2014-15 academic year, the subcommittee will evaluate the assessments in relation to student learning and engagement goals of the academic affairs strategic plan. The academic affairs strategic plan was implemented in spring 2014. Additionally, the subcommittee will create communication pieces (e.g., an annual assessment report) to better communicate data across the university. During the 2015-16 academic year, enhanced communication and dissemination of student learning and engagement data will be conducted on a consistent and on-going basis for various stakeholder groups.

Project Success Monitoring

The assessment subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Academic Assessment (ACAA) meets at least twice monthly throughout the academic year to work on this action project. During monthly ACAA meetings, the subcommittee provides the overall ACAA an update on their work. Also, the updates are listed on the university's accreditation website (on the ACAA webpage). Additionally, the construction of the annual assessment report will be organized with the relevant assessment findings located beneath headings based on components of the academic affairs strategic plan. Progress regarding strategic plan goals will be commonly shared and disseminated throughout the academic year to various university stakeholders.

Project Outcome Measures

Indicators that the action project has succeeded in achieving its goals will include identifying any vital gaps in assessment (and, if any gaps are identified, exploring different and/or additional assessments to better address these gaps), receiving feedback from university stakeholders that learning and engagement (assessment) findings have been sufficiently and usefully analyzed and communicated, and aiding the university in ability to use assessment data to drive improvement regarding student learning and faculty/student engagement.