

Institutional Assessment Committee: Academic Subcommittee
October 29, 2018
Student Union Missouri Room
2:00 – 3:00 pm

Present: Bruce Emmil, Amy Helgeson, Joshua Kern, Karen Nathe, Lindsey Novak, Jeffrey Stone, Earl Torgerson, Scott Tschaekofske, Kara Welk

Absent: Danica Allard, Brad Anderson, Larry Hanson, Michael Myers, David Sagsveen, Nita Wirtz

Guest: Shalini Srinivasan

Institutional Assessment Report Update

The committee was updated on the Institutional Assessment Report for the 2017-2018 academic year – the assessment data collected in 2017-2018 was overviewed and the resulting format for the report was shared. Draft sections of the report will now be disseminated to the appropriate departments and “Conversations in Assessment” meetings will be scheduled with each department to review the data collected, takeaways that emerged, and opportunities gleaned from the reported results and actions plans. Upon completion of the department meetings, the committee will be provided with a final draft of the entire report for review and feedback. After the committee has a chance to discuss and revise the document, the final report will be provided to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The committee was briefed on the planned “Conversations in Assessment” meetings (CIA meetings) that will be held with each academic department and non-academic departments involved in assessment of student learning. An idea for increasing engagement in the assessment process, breaking down negative associations and history around assessment, and demonstrating a successful closing of the assessment loop was proposed. Committee discussion led to refinement, improvement, and approval of the proposed idea. The Institutional Assessment Coordinator will begin scheduling the department meetings and provide a progress update at the next committee meeting.

Share Departmental Feedback and Progress on Assessment Planning Tasks for Fall of 2018

Committee members were asked to share feedback and the current status of assessment plans in their departments. Work in developing the plans overall is progressing. A suggestion was raised for an example of the outcome of the process or greater clarity of the “end game.”

Communication of Program Learning Outcomes in a Public-Facing Format

As career and technical programs and liberal arts/transfer disciplines are establishing or reviewing and finalizing their program learning outcomes and documenting the outcomes on their assessment plans (which are accessible internally on the Institutional Assessment Committee’s CORE Portal site), the next step is to communicate those outcomes in a public-facing format. Initial conversations that have taken place about the placement of the program learning outcomes on the BSC website were recapped for the committee. The options for placement of the program learning outcomes were presented, specifically either on the program/discipline specific pages on the website or embedded within the academic catalog. The committee voiced their opinion that program learning outcomes should be prominent on

the program/discipline specific pages (i.e., either on the landing page for the program/discipline or as a separate tab on the program/discipline webpage, and in either case, could lead to the academic catalog as well). The academic deans, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Marketing Manager, and Institutional Assessment Coordinator will be meeting about the matter in early November.

Explore Idea of Assessment Showcase

The group explored the idea of an assessment showcase to highlight some of the student learning improvement initiatives and assessment work of faculty and staff. The committee brainstormed various concepts for the event, including pairing an assessment showcase with an open house for each program/discipline that is designed for employees (as opposed to current or prospective students) to attend. The committee also considered the timing of such an event, agreeing that organizing an event in either spring 2019 or fall 2019 seems reasonable and sets the event up for greater success. The Institutional Assessment Coordinator will reach out to the Faculty Development Day Committee to inquire if an assessment showcase might fit into the agenda and plan for the Faculty Professional Development event in August of 2019. Conversations about the assessment showcase concept will continue at future Institutional Assessment Committee meetings.

Announcements

The Institutional Assessment Committee: Academic Subcommittee will meet again Tuesday, November 27, 2018 from noon – 1:00 pm.