



University Assessment Council Annual Report 2006-07

1. Membership. The following individuals were appointed by deans and directors to the UAC:
Mo Noonan Bischof, Office of the Provost, Co-Chair
Carolyn Lazar Butler, Law School
Kathleen Christoph, Academic Technology, DoIT
*Jeff Hamm, School of Education
Susan Dottl, Medical School
*Emily Gilbert, School of Pharmacy
Charles Halaby, General Education Assessment Project
James Johannes, School of Business
Elaine Klein, College of Letters & Science
Kathy Luker, Office of Quality Improvement
Jocelyn Milner, Academic Planning & Analysis
Jeanine Mount, School of Pharmacy, Co-Chair
Angie Nash, Wisconsin Alumni Association
Nadine Nehls, School of Nursing
*Chris Olsen, School of Veterinary Medicine
Sarah Pfatteicher, College of Engineering
Robert Ray, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
Nora Cate Schaeffer, UW Survey Center
Miriam Simmons, Graduate School
Hope Simon, Nelson Institute
Char Tortorice, Office of Testing and Evaluation Services
Wendy Way, School of Human Ecology
NOTE: ASM did not appoint a student member to the Council.

*New members. The 2006-07 UAC included 19 continuing members and three new members. Jeanine Mount was appointed as co-chair to serve with Mo Noonan Bischof.

2. Charge to the UAC for 2006. Provost Patrick Farrell attended the October 2006 UAC meeting. Farrell commended the UAC for their on-going efforts and encouraged the Council to increase the use of direct measures as evidence of student learning. Farrell also encouraged the Council to continue to think about ways to better align academic program assessment with the program review processes.
3. Meetings. The UAC met several times for formal business meetings: October 26, 2006; December 14, 2006; March 9, 2007; and May 7, 2007. Examples of the meeting topics included: UW-Madison Diversity Programs' Assessment Efforts, the Spelling Commission Report, the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA), planning for the 2009 Re-accreditation effort, and plans to identify university-wide learning expectations. At the March 2007 meeting, Professor Halaby presented the results of the Assessment of the Quantitative Reasoning "B" Requirement study (Gen Ed).

4. Priorities for 2006-07.

- a. Make stronger linkages with other initiatives on campus (e.g., teaching and learning, teaching academy, dept curricular committees and college/school academic planning councils).
- b. Align program assessment more closely with program review
- c. Enhance communication (e.g., consider ways to communicate general education assessment activities to internal and external audiences)
- d. Create opportunities for focused discussion on assessment activities across campus recognizing and learning from the variability of assessment strategies and practices across campus (e.g., professional schools and broader general education and social sciences/humanities)
- e. Invite individuals who have received assessment funds to present and share their results with the Council
- f. Enhance the assessment website incorporating more examples of effective assessment tools, practices, fund proposals, reports, etc.
- g. Minimize duplication of efforts across campus

A primary interest of the Council during 2006-07 was to consider and forward an initiative to identify university-wide learning expectations (see Priorities a., b., c., d., and g.). Understanding the 2003 University Assessment Plan required each academic program to establish learning outcomes and that it intentionally set aside efforts to identify university-level outcomes, the Council agreed that it was time to consider developing a framework for articulating institutional learning outcomes. During the summer of 2007 an "audit" will be conducted to review expectations for student learning that are university-wide and that have already been articulated and embraced by the university community. The intention is not to "start over" but rather to synthesize existing statements into a recommendation for a UW-Madison-specific articulation of expectations for student learning. A report will be submitted to the UAC in fall 2007 for further action.

5. Annual Reports on Assessment by the Schools and Colleges. Annually, the provost requests the deans to provide a report on assessment activities in the schools and colleges. In 2004, Council members agreed to various reporting formats: a format that the unit prepares for another purpose, including accreditation or advisory board review; an established school/college format that serves other purposes; or a report prepared to content guidelines provided by the provost's office, including the use of the program/ assessment matrix. As of July 2007, 13 school and colleges had provided 2006-07 assessment reports, including the General Education assessment report. In the past couple of years, the number of schools and colleges submitting annual reports has increased and remains constant. Assessment reports are posted at:

http://www.provost.wisc.edu/assessment/Assessment_Reports.html

6. University Assessment Funds. The oversight and management of the University Assessment Funds resides with the Provost or his/her designee. Annually, a review committee appointed by the chair (or co-chairs) of the UAC considers the assessment fund proposals, consults with the UAC representatives as needed, and allocates funds based on the criteria stated in the annual Call for Assessment Funds. UAC representatives play a key role in shaping the foci for the call for funds and support their departments and units in preparing fund requests. In 2006-07, 15 applications for funds were submitted. Of these, 13 projects, representing nine schools/colleges, were funded including General Education assessment. The average fund award, excluding funds allocated to General Education was \$10,700. The total dollars awarded was \$182,400. To see a summary of the 2006-07 projects funded see: <http://www.provost.wisc.edu/assessment/prevfundproposals.html>

University Assessment Council Homepage: <http://www.provost.wisc.edu/assessment/>

Respectfully submitted to the Provost, July 2007.

