



## University Assessment Council Annual Report 2007-08

1. Membership. The following individuals were appointed by deans and directors to the UAC:

\*Marianne Bird Bear, International Studies  
Mo Noonan Bischof, Office of the Provost, Co-Chair  
Carolyn Lazar Butler, Law School  
Kathleen Christoph, Academic Technology, DoIT  
\*Steve Cramer, College of Engineering  
Susan Dottl, Medical School  
Charles Halaby, General Education Assessment Project  
Jeff Hamm, School of Education  
James Johannes, School of Business  
Elaine Klein, College of Letters and Science  
\*Sarah McDaniel, General Libraries  
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 Agriculture and Life Sciences  
\*Brittany Radocha, Associated Students of Madison  
Nora Cate Schaeffer, UW Survey Center  
Miriam Simmons, Graduate School  
Hope Simon, Nelson Institute  
Wendy Way, School of Human Ecology  
\*James Wollack, Office of Testing and Evaluation Services

Guests: Nancy Mathews, UW Reaccreditation Project  
Eden Inoway-Ronnie, UW Reaccreditation Project

\*New members. The 2007-08 UAC included 19 continuing members and five new members. Jeanine Mount and Mo Noonan Bischof continue to serve as the co-chairs for the Council.

2. Charge to the UAC for 2006. Provost Patrick Farrell attended the October 2007 UAC meeting. Farrell commended the members for their role as the point-person for assessment for their respective dean or director. The provost also asked the Council to work together to support the efforts affiliated with the UW-Madison Reaccreditation Project and reminded the Council of its role in the upcoming site visit in April, 2009.

3. Meetings. The UAC met several times for formal business meetings: October 1, 2007, November 27, 2007, January 23, 2008, February 26, 2008, March 24, 2008 and May 1, 2008. Examples of important topics that were discussed or which required action included:

- UW-Madison Reaccreditation Project,
- adoption of the Preface to the 2003 Assessment Plan which includes a framework for establishing,
- university-wide learning outcomes,
- school and college assessment activity updates,
- review of the College of Letters & Science Teaching Assistants Assessment Project,
- presentation on the 2008 General Education Assessment Plan,
- discussion on ePortfolios and student learning outcomes, and
- initial discussions about the future directions and priorities for the Council.

At the UAC January meeting, Professor Halaby presented the results of the Assessment of the Communication A Requirements study (Gen Ed).

4. Major Accomplishments. After months of discussion and deliberation, in February, 2008 the UAC formally adopted the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), Liberal Education for Americas Promise (LEAP) and the Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs) as a rhetorical framework for institution-level assessment of student learning.

[http://www.provost.wisc.edu/assessment/Assessmentplan2003\\_R2008.pdf](http://www.provost.wisc.edu/assessment/Assessmentplan2003_R2008.pdf). Along with the Wisconsin Experience <http://www.learning.wisc.edu/>, the LEAP essential learning outcomes provide an institutional model to develop, evaluate, improve and articulate evidence of student learning at UW-Madison. The Council representatives continue to work with faculty and colleagues in their units to embrace the framework in ways that are useful to the department and unit.

5. Ongoing Efforts. As part of the Council's ongoing work, the UAC identified the following topics and challenges to begin to address during 2008-09:

**Goal:** *To ensure that we are prepared for the 2009 Reaccreditation site visit.*

**Plan:** Work closely with the Reaccreditation Team to prepare for the site visit. Co-chairs, Jeanine Mount and Mo Noonan Bischof will meet with school and college deans, APCs, curriculum committees or others involved in assessment of student learning. Ongoing discussions and updates about the reaccreditation project will be part of the UAC meeting agendas throughout 2008-09.

**Goal:** *Furthering Institutional-level Evidence of Student Learning.*

**Plan:** Three major academic learning experiences were identified to gather institutional-level evidence of student learning: capstone courses, internships/practicums, and undergraduate research. The articulation of the WI-Experience (WI-X) and the LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs) will provide the framework for furthering this analysis.

**Goal:** *Communication.* Related to the challenge of identifying evidence of student learning at the institutional-level, is the challenge of communicating what we are doing to various internal and external constituents.

**Plan:** Work with various units across campus including academic programs and co-curricular programs as well as the UAPC, General Education Committee, the Offices of the Dean of Students, the vice provosts, and other support units to develop and align communication strategies across campus.

6. 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 August 2008, 13 school and colleges had provided annual assessment reports, including the General Education assessment report. Assessment reports are posted at: [http://www.provost.wisc.edu/assessment/Assessment\\_Reports.html](http://www.provost.wisc.edu/assessment/Assessment_Reports.html)

7. 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. The 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 2007-08, thirteen assessment projects representing several departments and schools/colleges were funded including general education assessment activities. The total amount awarded: \$173,000 and the average fund award (excluding general education funds) was \$12,000. To see a summary of the 2007-08 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 2008.

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