



## University Assessment Council Annual Report 2005-06

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, Learning Technology and Distance Education

\*Hardin Coleman, School of Education

\*Susan Dottl, Medical School

Charles Halaby, General Education Assessment Project

Susan Hyland, School of Veterinary Medicine

James Johannes, School of Business

Elaine Klein, College of Letters and Science

Kathy Luker, Office of Quality Improvement

Jeanine Mount, School of Pharmacy

\*Angie Nash, Wisconsin Alumni Association

Nadine Nehls, School of Nursing

Sarah Pfatteicher, College of Engineering

Robert Ray, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Co-chair

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 2005-06 UAC included 17 continuing members and three new members. The co-chairs, Bob Ray and Mo Noonan Bischof, continued from the previous year and that provided a measure of continuity.

2. Meetings. The UAC met several times for formal business meetings: November 4, 2005, December 14, 2005, January 20, 2006, and March 3, 2006. At the November meeting the Council agreed that each meeting would be devoted to a discussion or presentation on a specific assessment topic or activity and part of the meeting would be reserved for college/school reports or sharing ideas around program assessment with the group. Examples of some of the meeting topics included, Alumni Enhancement Project, National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), DoIT's Websurvey Tool, and the Assessment of the Quantitative Reasoning "A" Requirement (Gen Ed).
3. Charge to the UAC for 2005. Interim Provost Gina Sapiro attended the November UAC meeting. Sapiro commended the UAC for their on-going efforts to create an environment where evaluative judgments – the stuff of assessment – are explicitly documented and used as the foundation of evidence for decision making. Sapiro encouraged the Council to increase the use of direct measures and look directly at the products of student learning. She also encouraged the Council to strengthen the connections between assessment of academic programs and teaching and learning, without duplicating what others are doing in this area.

Assessment Workshop with Barbara Walvoord: The UAC convened a campus-wide workshop on "Academic Program Assessment" with Barbara Walvoord, a nationally recognized assessment expert, on March 28, 2006. More than 50 individuals attended the workshop including 15 Council members. Participants worked directly on their own assessment plans to 1) articulate learning goals, 2) select useful methods to observe how well students achieve those goals, and 3) to identify how the results will improve the academic program.

Following the workshop, Walvoord met privately with Council members. She worked with the Council to identify the strengths of the Council and the challenges the Council faces when coordinating assessment activities across campus. Based on this discussion, the Council developed a set of priorities for 2006-07.

4. 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 September 2006, 7 of the 13 units had provided 2005-06 assessment reports. Assessment reports are posted at: [http://www.provost.wisc.edu/assessment/Assessment\\_Reports.html](http://www.provost.wisc.edu/assessment/Assessment_Reports.html)
5. Priorities for 2006-07. For the next academic year, Council members agreed to focus on the following priorities:
  - 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

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

\*\*\*\*\*