

Program Review and Assessment Committee

2006-07 Annual Report

Karen Johnson, Chair and Joshua Smith, Vice Chair

Principal topics considered at each of the 2006-07 PRAC meetings are noted below:

September 21, 2006 – IUPUI’s new Undergraduate Curriculum Committee appointed by Vice Chancellor Sukhatme to prepare a position in response to a call from the IU Trustees for a single general education program system-wide, highlights of the Spellings Commission on the Future of Higher Education Final Report, Drew Appleby’s psychology students’ study of the face validity of sample Collegiate Learning Assessment items, PRAC priorities for 2006-07, progress on the student electronic portfolio, initial meeting of PRAC subcommittees for the academic year.

October 19, 2006 – course evaluations, summary of program reviewers’ recommendations between 1994 and 2004 to identify common themes, subcommittee reports from Advanced Practice and Program Review.

November 16, 2006 – experiences and perceptions of African American students at IUPUI as interpreted in responses to the National Survey of Student Engagement, IUPUI faculty responses to the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement, members’ questions for a proposed future panel on program review, recommendation of two proposals for PRAC funding (see document following this annual report for details).

December 7, 2006 – program theory in assessment and use of logic models to support grant applications, conclusions reached by the Performance Indicators Subcommittee, student retention rates and the impact of learning communities on achievement and retention (report of positive effects).

January 18, 2007 – report on the successful conclusion of a PRAC-supported grant project using electronic portfolios, National Survey of Student Engagement response trends for IUPUI students from 2002 to 2006, questions for an upcoming panel on program review, progress on developing an IU-wide approach to general education.

February 22, 2007 – reports on two completed PRAC grant-supported projects, panel on program review presented by representatives of Social Work, Engineering & Technology, and Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

March 22, 2007 – focused vs. comprehensive program reviews, visit by three academic leaders from Bradley University present on this occasion, campus program review vs. program accreditation, involving students in the review process, review of the wording of the critical thinking PUL by the Faculty Council Academic Affairs Committee chaired by Betty Jones, good practices and barriers for beginning assessment initiatives, involving more faculty in assessment, insertion in the PUL document undergoing revision a requirement that schools implement and report progress toward assessing student achievement of the PULs.

April 19, 2007 – report on assessment in upper-level undergraduate and lower-division graduate courses in Informatics, presentation of sample data for use in program reviews, encouraging use of these data in the review process, and subcommittee report on course evaluations.

May 10, 2007 – presentation on focus groups in assessment given by members of the Advanced Practice Subcommittee, the U.S. Department of Education’s new requirement that accreditors must show in their standards that they are encouraging assessment of learning outcomes like the PULs, PRAC annual reporting process, subcommittee reports: Advanced Practice members have offered two workshops for PRAC members, the technological underpinnings of the electronic portfolio are moving forward, graduate programs still lack a set of common learning outcomes like the PULs.

Persistent themes in 2006-07:

1. Accountability issues raised by the Spellings Commission’s final report and the Voluntary System of Accountability
2. Program review
 - a. Common recommendations over the decade 1994-2004
 - b. Focused vs. comprehensive reviews
 - c. Accreditation reviews vs. the campus program review process
 - d. Interpretation of data supplied for unit self studies by Information Management and Institutional Research.
3. Course evaluations
4. Development of the IUPUI statement on general education to meet the request of the IU Trustees that all IU campuses adopt a common approach to general education.
5. Interest in the results of PRAC grant-supported projects

2006-07 Grants Awarded

Principal Investigator(s)	Grant Title	Final Report Due and Received	Award Amount
Marjorie Hovde, School of Engineering and Technology	Assessing the Effectiveness and Appropriateness of the Technical Communications Certificates at IUPUI	Due June 2008 Received July 2, 2008	\$2500
Jesse Nelson, School of Education and Jennifer Beasley, Center for Teaching and Learning	Gateway Scholars Program Assessment	Due January 2008	\$2000;
Rafael Bahamonde, School of PE and Tourism Management	Effects of the Diversity Scholars Research Program on Minority Students Graduation Rate at IUPUI	Due April 2008	\$2500;
Julie Settles, School of Nursing	Clinical Simulation with Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Students	Due April 2008	\$2455.80 (rounded to \$2456).