Program Review and Assessment Committee

2007-08 Annual Report

2007 - Karen Johnson, Chair, and Joshua Smith, Vice Chair
2008 - Joshua Smith, Chair, and Mark Urtel, Vice Chair

Principal topics considered at each of the 2007-08 PRAC meetings are noted below:

September 20, 2007 – the 2007 AAC&U Summer Institute on General Education, the visibility of PRAC within academic units, PRAC subcommittee assignments.

October 25, 2007 – activities designed to celebrate the 10th anniversary (1998) of the Principles of Undergraduate Learning, results of a survey of PRAC members showing that 90% of respondents believe student learning outcomes are a component of at least some curricula in each school, methods for communicating PRAC goals and activities to faculty in individual units, campus level methods for recognizing an individual’s commitment to assessment.

November 15, 2007 – illustrations of the ways in which academic units implement the Principles of Undergraduate Learning—a session with presentations by school representatives that was open to faculty and students in addition to PRAC members.

December 6, 2007 – subcommittee reports, reflections on the November 15 PUL presentations, concerns about the amount of assessment work currently being conducted by professional staff rather than faculty, the effectiveness of standing subcommittees as opposed to topic-oriented task forces, election of new officers: Joshua Smith as chair and Mark Urtel as vice chair.

January 24, 2008 – announcement of PRAC grant recipients (see listing at the end of this annual report), exemplary approaches to teaching and assessing student learning of the Principles of Undergraduate Learning, discussion of graduate issues.

February 28, 2008 – discussion of the ICHE working paper entitled “Reaching Higher with Accountability,” question and answer session with principal investigators on newly-awarded PRAC grants, possibilities for using standardized testing to demonstrate accountability at IUPUI.

March 27, 2008 – subcommittee and task force reports, use of electronic portfolios at IUPUI, the need to revise program review guidelines, study of the content and administration methods for course evaluations at IUPUI, the use of a matrix in promoting and recording student learning outcomes.

May 1, 2008 – recognition of outstanding examples of instruction and assessment involving the Principles of Undergraduate Learning, presentation by a principal investigator who has completed work funded by a PRAC grant, course evaluations.
**Persistent themes in 2007-08:**

1. Attention to examples of good practice in teaching and assessing student learning of the Principles of Undergraduate learning.

2. Study of course evaluations across campus to see if
   a. items might be constructed to assess student learning of concepts emphasized in the course
   b. student response rates, especially to on-line evaluations, can be increased
   c. a few common items might be inserted in course evaluation forms campus-wide

3. Methods for communicating PRAC goals and activities more broadly to faculty in individual units.

4. Accountability issues raised by (a) the ICHE working paper “Reaching Higher with Accountability” and (b) the Voluntary System of Accountability.

5. Differences between assessment at undergraduate and graduate levels.

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**2007-2008 Grants Awarded**

**First Semester Awards:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator(s)</th>
<th>Grant Title</th>
<th>Final Report Due</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noelle Goodwin, Coordinator, Housing and Residence Life</td>
<td>Assessment of First Year Residential Student Learning and Success</td>
<td>Delayed the study until 2008-09 Due May 2010</td>
<td>$2500</td>
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<td>Eric Williams, Academic Advisor, University College &amp; Housing and Residence Life</td>
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<td>Frank E. Ross, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Learning</td>
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<td>Snehasis Mukhopadhyay, project director; Computer and</td>
<td>Assessing Computer Science Majors Using the</td>
<td>Due January 2009</td>
<td>$2400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator(s)</td>
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<td>Final Report Due</td>
<td>Award Amount</td>
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<td>Rosa Tezanos-Pinto</td>
<td>Students’ Assessment on Race: Haitian and Dominican Populations</td>
<td>Due April 2009</td>
<td>$2500</td>
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<td>World Languages and Cultures</td>
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<td>Kathleen Stanton-Nichols</td>
<td>Development of a phase one portfolio project for the assessment of pre-service physical education teachers content knowledge</td>
<td>Due May 2009</td>
<td>$2500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Physical Education</td>
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**Second Semester Awards:**

Information Science
Joshua Morrison, project associate, Department of Computer and Information Science

Capstone Experience