

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.

2007-2008 Grants Awarded

First Semester Awards:

Principal Investigator(s)	Grant Title	Final Report Due	Award Amount
Noelle Goodwin, Coordinator, Housing and Residence Life Eric Williams, Academic Advisor, University College & Housing and Residence Life Frank E. Ross, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Learning	Assessment of First Year Residential Student Learning and Success	Delayed the study until 2008-09 Due May 2010	\$2500
Snehasis Mukhopadhyay, project director; Computer and	Assessing Computer Science Majors Using the	Due January 2009	\$2400

Information Science Joshua Morrison, project associate, Department of Computer and Information Science	Capstone Experience		
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Second Semester Awards:

Principal Investigator(s)	Grant Title	Final Report Due	Award Amount
Rosa Tezanos-Pinto World Languages and Cultures	Students' Assessment on Race: Haitian and Dominican Populations	Due April 2009	\$2500
Kathleen Stanton-Nichols Department of Physical Education	Development of a phase one portfolio project for the assessment of pre- service physical education teachers content knowledge	Due May 2009	\$2500