

PROGRAM REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

~ Annual Summary of Activity ~
Academic Year 1999-2000

The following report will outline and discuss major themes that resulted from the presentations, discussions, and achievements of the Program Review and Assessment Committee (PRAC) and its individual members during AY 1999-2000. PRAC continued to meet monthly during the academic year providing guidance, feedback, and support as the schools at IUPUI further their assessment progress.

Theme One: Annual Reports

A major aspect of improving the assessment of student learning is the development of School-wide annual reports. The annual reports were designed to reflect progress schools are making toward assessment and eventually to be a medium where schools can report their assessment findings and subsequent changes. An “annual report gap” continues between those schools that are routinely asked by outside organizations to report on improvement and those that must generate this information without the same pressures.

In September 1999, PRAC reviewed several annual reports, discussing how the reports have changed and recognizing those schools that made substantial progress. It was then decided that perhaps an assessment of the annual reports was in order to determine if PRAC could help those schools struggling to complete the matrix.

As the discussions continued regarding annual reports, members made it clear that while PRAC should be supportive in writing reports, the committee itself should not be viewed as the “assessment police”. The matrix, which has guided the reports, will remain the same and members were encouraged to complete each column as thoroughly as possible.

Observational Outcomes:

- Continued discussion of reporting student learning outcomes
- Different examples of annual reports reviewed
- Review of campus web-sites focusing on assessment

Theme Two: Faculty Associates for Undergraduate Learning

Closely linked to annual reports was the development of a group of Faculty Associates. Three faculty received \$5,000 stipends to review campus-wide efforts to implement the Principles of Undergraduate Learning. The Associates assigned will be reviewing efforts linked with assessment and schools efforts to engage PULs within their courses, learning communities, and capstone experiences.

IUPUI Faculty Associates:

- David Bostwick (Critical Thinking)
- Rick Ward (Intellectual Breadth, Depth, and Adaptiveness/Integration and Application of Knowledge)
- Rebecca Van Voorhis (Society and Culture/Values and Ethics)

Observable Outcomes

- Renewed focus on PULs
- Schools report on their progress
- Emphasis on assessment and student learning

Theme Three: Grant Reports and Awards

Continuing the history of reporting on projects funded by PRAC, the committee heard from three awardees regarding their findings. Dr. Valerie Chang and Dr. Bob Bennett from the School of Social Work, Dr. Thomas Upton, Director of the English as a Second Language Program, and Dr. Beth Berghoff from the School of Education reported their findings and received questions and comments from PRAC members.

It appears that these reports continue to be a highlight of the meetings as members have the opportunity to see how others are assessing or making progress towards assessment. Additionally, it was apparent that each school had very different assessment needs or foci.

Reports Made:

Valerie Chang	Assessment of Social Work
Robert Bennett	Competency
Thomas Upton	Assessing Programmatic and Instructional Effectiveness of the English as a Second Language Program at IUPUI
Beth Berghoff	IUPUI Framework for Beginning Teacher Professional Practice

Three grants were awarded during the 1999-2000 academic year. The continued interest in the grants again underlines the interest in improving assessment at IUPUI.

Grants Awarded:

Marjorie Hovde	Communication Assessment Development School of Engineering and Technology	\$2,000
Cynthia Dobbs	Development of S483 Capstone Course End of Program Assessment School of Nursing	\$2,000
Sharon Hamilton	The Principled Curriculum University College	\$2,000

Theme Four: University Program Updates and Workshops

To highlight the numerous campus-wide projects focusing on assessment and students learning, many different presentations were made during the year. Presentations stressed University-wide initiatives geared at accreditation as well as those useful to faculty members. The following presentations were given during the year:

Mark Shermis Project Essay Grade (computerized scoring of essays)
Sharon Hamilton Urban Portfolio Project (a continuously evolving electronic self-study)
David Bostwick Faculty Associates for Undergraduate Learning

Perhaps one of the more exciting presentations/workshops given was that of Barbara Walvoord, faculty development consultant based at the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Walvoord conducted a full-day workshop that focused on grading and promoting student learning. The workshop was very well attended and generated much discussion amongst the PRAC members.

Theme Five: Program Review Reports

To assist PRAC members with their upcoming program reviews and to hear how schools made changes after program review, the committee continues to hear from those schools and departments that have completed the program review process. The following reports were given this year:

Integrated Technologies
School of Allied Health Sciences
School of Science

Additional Activities

While this report focuses on four major themes, many additional miscellaneous activities took place during the year. PRAC discussed the changes in the Graduate Program review document and the self-study on the Campus Climate for Diversity.

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