

# Program Review and Assessment Committee

2010 -2011

~ *Annual Report* ~

1. **Reaffirmation of accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools in November 2012** was a consistent theme at meetings of the Program Review and Assessment Committee (PRAC) during 2010-11. Updates on the progress of Criterion Teams appointed to draft chapter outlines were given at each meeting, and PRAC members were encouraged to attend the town hall meetings scheduled in the spring for the purpose of gathering additional information for each team.
2. **Evaluation of student attainment of PUL-related knowledge and skills** also received continuing emphasis throughout the year. Faculty evaluations of student effectiveness were recorded for the first time in May 2010 and Gary Pike of Information Management and Institutional Research provided a report on initial findings at the August 2010 meeting. Since students rate themselves on PUL-related skills on the Continuing Student Survey, Pike was able to provide both student and faculty perspectives on the effectiveness of learning. Given the fact that courses are being sampled, it is too soon to generalize about campus-wide strengths and weaknesses from the faculty perspective. However, students rate their own effectiveness above 3 on a 4-point scale, with the exception of quantitative skills, for which the mean is 2.95.
3. In August PRAC chair Mark Urtel (Physical Education & Tourism Management) reported on a **study** he has conducted on the **impact of the 29 PRAC grants** awarded from fall 2002 through spring 2009. A 15-item questionnaire was sent to the principal investigators, and 20 (74%) responded.
  - Departments/programs have made changes to policies and procedures as a result of the grant activity. Curriculum review, changes in course structure, and improving curriculum alignment with professional standards, were mentioned as responsive actions taken.
  - Eleven respondents have given conference presentations based on their projects.
  - Five publications have been submitted; of these, one is in print and another is in press.
  - Five respondents have used results to apply for additional internal and external grants, all of which have been funded, for amounts ranging from \$5k to \$1M. (PRAC grants are \$2500 or less.)
4. Six **subcommittees** met throughout the year: Advanced Practitioners, Course Evaluations, Graduate Issues, Grant Review, Performance Indicators for Teaching and Learning, and Program Review.

5. To comply with North Central accreditation standards, faculty in all degree programs were asked to **submit by March 31, 2011 student learning outcomes** (SLOs) for their curricula to the Registrar for inclusion in the on-line *Bulletin*. Advanced Practice Subcommittee members developed instructions for writing student learning outcomes that were included with the request for SLOs that went to each dean. Time for sharing sample SLOs was provided at several PRAC meetings.
6. For the first time, **PRAC annual reports were reviewed** by a PRAC subcommittee using a set of criteria developed by subcommittee members. Reviews were presented to developers of the reports at the May PRAC meeting.
7. At the December 2010 meeting **Karen Alfrey** (Engineering & Technology) and **Michael Yard** (Science) were elected chair and vice chair, respectively, for 2011.
8. Also in December, Dean of the IUPUI Graduate School Sherry Queener reported on the newly-adopted **Principles of Graduate Learning** (PGLs). At several subsequent PRAC meetings members discussed how they might assist colleagues in their departments in implementing the PGLs.
9. Four **new PRAC grants** were awarded during this academic year. Recipients included William Gustashaw and Allison Howland (IUPUC Division of Education/Special Education); and Pamela Ironside, Angela McNelis, and Patricia Ebright (School of Nursing Center for Research in Nursing Education).
10. Susan Kahn, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, provided an overview of progress on **IUPUI's ePort initiative** at the January 2011 meeting.
11. At the February meeting, **Rob Aaron**, Director of Assessment in Student Life, updated members on the process of **defining and assessing outcomes in the Division of Student Life**.
12. Also in February, Information Management and Institutional Research survey research specialist, Steve Graunke, demonstrated the use of pivot tables to drill into PUL evaluation data.
13. In March Michele Hansen, Director of Assessment for University College, **distinguished direct and indirect outcomes measures**, and Sara Brand from the Office of the Vice President for Research provided an overview of **new IRB policies and procedures** for working with student data.
14. At the April meeting Drew Appleby (Science) described his approach to assessing student learning, analyzing findings, and using this information to guide course improvements in his sections of B103 (Introduction to a Major in Psychology).
15. Also in April PRAC members spent 1/3 of the meeting time discussing in small groups how they have used assessment data to guide program improvements in the past year.
16. In May Cathy Buyarski, Assistant Dean in University College, described the electronic portfolio as a platform for developing first-year students' Personal Development Plans.