**Senate Committee Annual Report**

Senate Committee: Assessment Committee Year: 2015-2016

**1. What are the primary duties of this committee?**

From the Senate constitution:

* Review and recommend university-wide assessment tools.
* Advise and assist academic programs in developing and monitoring student learning.
* Collaborate with the University Studies Committee on university-wide assessment of University Studies goal strands and proficiencies.
* Collaborate with the Accreditation Steering Committee to report on accreditation standards that include academic assessment.
* Report information on university-wide assessments to the Institutional Assessment and Accreditation Committee. – Abolished spring 2016.

**2. What did you plan to accomplish this year?**

From the minutes October 2, 2015

1. Perform the second year of institutional senior writing assessment adding a Quantitative Reasoning (QR) component.
2. Cede the academic program review process to the Accreditation Steering committee this year only.
3. Devise and pilot an institutional oral communication assessment.
4. Organize three Assessment Workshops.
5. Determine our role vis-à-vis graduate programs.
6. Maintain our vision for eventual use of portfolios as an institutional assessment device.
7. Work with the university studies people as they design assessments for the integration strands.
8. Oversee the CLA for this year.
9. Work with the university studies people as they design assessments for the integration strands.
10. Communicate to our students the work of the assessment committee.

**3. What did the committee accomplish during this academic year?**

A response to the goals listed above.

1. The committee evaluated thirty-nine senior writing samples from all programs and 26 FUSE papers from USem students. The detailed report including QR results is attached.
2. The academic program review process was ceded though several members of the committee were on the Accreditation Steering committee.
3. A pilot study was performed in the spring. A report will be disseminated next fall.
4. The fall and winter workshop was run by a subcommittee of the Accreditation Steering committee. An agendas for the spring workshop is attached.
5. The committee determined that it has no role vis-à-vis graduate programs.
6. The ePortfolio’s are slowing infusing the university. Several projects are ongoing and few new ones have been added. No formal report has been submitted.
7. The committee reviewed the new general studies new course proposals and made suggestion. A joint meeting with the General Studies Committee was held.
8. The CLA was administered this year with the help of Dale Vidmar. The committee will review the results in the fall.
9. The committee held a joint meeting with the University Studies Committee where we discussed how to assess general education strands. The University Studies Committee’s new form has an extensive assessment component.
10. The committee’s student representative participated fully otherwise no direct communication with student governance was made.

**4. What issues and/or additional responsibilities arose this year that influenced the work of the committee?**

We felt that the senior writing assessment went smoothly and that more programs are emphasizing senior writing though no changes were noted in the assessment. We showed that QR is used by a large majority of students in their writing. Scheduling for oral presentations was problematic and will be revisited next year. The CLA+ results were disappointing.

**5. Given what you have learned this year, what goals do you recommend this senate committee focus upon in the upcoming year?**

The committee is gradually adding more annual responsibilities – Now oral presentation assessments. We are expecting because of the accreditation process this year that our role next year will include more tasks and we await the accreditation team’s report. Our challenge as it has always been is to infuse the concepts and application of learning assessments throughout the university.

Senate Committee Report Form/Associate Provost/2011