

Assessment Council Minutes

Spring 2015

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Assessment Council Meeting Agenda
January 26, 2015, 1-2 p.m.
University Center, Spruce C

Members: (yellow highlight indicates members present)

Jill Bezyak, College of Natural and Health Sciences Representative

Kim Black, Assessment, Chair

Jason Byrnes, College of Performing and Visual Arts Representative, Assessment Fellow

Lyda Ellis, University Libraries Representative

Jenna Finley, Enrollment Management and Student Access Representative

Cynthia Galovich, Faculty Senate Representative

Brian Johnson, Graduate Council Representative

David Kendrick, Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning

Heng-Yu Ku, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Representative, Assessment Fellow

Jay Lightfoot, Monfort College of Business Representative, Assessment Fellow

Chris Marston, College of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative, Assessment Fellow

Julie Sexton, Assessment, Assessment Fellow

Eugene Sheehan, Provost's Leadership Team Representative

Stephanie Torrez, University College Representative

Renee Welch, Student Engagement Representative

1. Announcements
 - a. HLC Report available online (www.unco.edu/hlc)
 - b. Announced recent and upcoming assessment conference presentations
2. Discussion Items
 - a. HLC Review Team meeting with Assessment Council
 - i. Tentative time: 11-11:45, March 9, with Cain and Buck
 - ii. Preparing for the meeting
 1. Review Criterion 3, pp 142-143; Criterion 4, pp 205, 211-216
 2. Discussed possible questions we can anticipate
 - b. 2015 Assessment Fair
 - i. Discussed strategies for informing campus and increasing participation
 1. Notify ADeans and Deans about presenters
 2. Invite faculty teaching students who might be interested
 3. Maybe attach to scholars day – is there a way to incorporate?
 4. State-wide invitations
 5. Consider recommendation to Provost for establishing professional development day during winter break (think about partnering with another unit)
Add to next month's agenda
 - ii. Assistance with organizing and staffing
 1. Ku volunteered
 - iii. Luncheon speaker – Kim will confirm with Ida Asner from LiveText
3. Reports and Updates
 - a. Guiding Principles Committee
 - i. Discussed process to date

- ii. Distributed draft of 11 principles
- iii. Reviewed and discussed document
- iv. Send any additional comments to Julie Sexton ([return to Contents](#))

Assessment Council Meeting Agenda
February 23, 2015, 1-2 p.m.
University Center, Spruce C

Members: (yellow highlight indicates members present)

Jill Bezyak, College of Natural and Health Sciences Representative

Kim Black, Assessment, Chair

Jason Byrnes, College of Performing and Visual Arts Representative, Assessment Fellow

Lyda Ellis, University Libraries Representative

Jenna Finley, Enrollment Management and Student Access Representative

Cynthia Galovich, Faculty Senate Representative

Brian Johnson, Graduate Council Representative

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Julie Sexton, Assessment, Assessment Fellow

Eugene Sheehan, Provost's Leadership Team Representative

Stephanie Torrez, University College Representative

Renee Welch, Student Engagement Representative

1. Announcements/Updates
 - a. HLC Information Fair – March 4, 2-4
 - b. Assessment Fair – March 31
 - c. Guiding Principles
 - i. Surveys going out to faculty, staff, and students to collect additional information
 - ii. Emails first week of March
 - iii. Focus groups in beginning of March
2. Discussion Items
 - a. HLC Review Team meeting with Assessment Council (review and practice questions)
Broke into pairs to discuss and then discussed as a group
 - b. Brainstormed recommendations for creating a professional development day in winter break
 - c. Discussed 2015-2016 Assessment Council Membership ([return to Contents](#))

Assessment Council Meeting Minutes
March 30, 1-2 p.m.
University Center, Spruce A

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Jill Bezyak, College of Natural and Health Sciences Representative

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Julie Sexton, Assessment, Assessment Fellow

Eugene Sheehan, Provost's Leadership Team Representative

Stephanie Torrez, University College Representative

Renee Welch, Student Engagement Representative

1. Announcements/Updates

- a. Assessment Fair – March 31
- b. Guiding Principles – Discussed roll out and need to add examples for co-curricular that aren't survey-based.

2. Discussion Items

- a. HLC Debrief – discussed perceptions of meeting with HLC peer reviewers. Members reporting it as positive experience and expressed that they felt prepared based on the questions discussed in the February meeting.
- b. Brainstormed recommendations for creating a professional development day in winter break

i. Pros and Cons

Pros

Less impact on students in terms of taking people out of class/the office less disruption

Everyone knows it is going to happen, can set it aside for calendar, everyone can attend

Access for those who typically can't participate

Higher participation

People might attend trainings they might normally not

Whets appetite for follow-up training

Opportunity for creating sense of community around shared purpose, topics

Cross-disciplinary

Cheaper than sending people to training

Could get creative – expand into different days/locations (Centerra)

Different spaces might allow for people outside of UNC to attend

Internal sharing of expertise of faculty/staff research

Focused attention to a single topic of priority to the campus

Relieves some pressures and reluctance of leaders to engage

Could even assess outcomes
Staff would love this

Cons

Would faculty participate? Especially if it is on campus during break (lots of faculty live outside of Greeley)

May require a culture change to get people to attend

Whole day may discourage people to attend

If single topic, people may not see relevance

Leadership (provost) would have to define as an expectation

Presenters would have to be very conscious about making it relevant to people

How would we incentivize to make inroads into the current culture?

Why are we doing it at all? Is there a need for this type of training?

Why should faculty care? How will it make our jobs better?

Should it be an attempt to reach all audiences or start where people are?

Requiring people may not be the best way to build interest in participating

ii. Potential Partners

Teaching and Learning Fair and Assessment Fair combined

Other thoughts – what problem are we trying to solve? Maybe the Assessment Council should do a needs assessment for the campus.

- c. 2015-2016 Assessment Council Membership – Kim asked for confirmation of anyone planning to go off the Council in 15-16. ([return to Contents](#))

Assessment Council Meeting Minutes
April 27, 1-2 p.m.
University Center, Spruce C

Members: (yellow highlight indicated members present)

Jill Bezyak, College of Natural and Health Sciences Representative

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1. Announcements/Updates

a. Guiding Principles Report

Committee provided update and handout. Discussed process for soliciting feedback, which included surveys of faculty, staff, and students and focus groups with each. Student feedback was particularly positive. One major change was adding principle #2 in response to faculty feedback. Kim thanked the committee for their work.

The Council recommended adopting the Guiding Principles. Kim will follow up with Provost Wacker. During Fall 2015, the Council will work on a communications plan to share these broadly with the campus.

b. Faculty-to-Faculty Conference on Gen Ed

Kim updated the Council on the April 24 CDHE Faculty-to-Faculty Conference. This conference is for faculty from all the public 2 and 4-year institutions in the state. The focus of the April 24 conference was to discuss proposed revisions to the general education competencies (gtPathways), which have not been updated in 10 years. Faculty representatives from the six LAC gtPathways areas, along with Kim and Julie, were invited to attend the event. Revisions to the general education competencies are based on the AACU Value Rubrics (see attached for the ones the state is considering). Faculty present were generally positive about the proposed revisions with some suggestions for revisions. The revised competencies may also be an opportunity for student affairs and students services to contribute to general education. The state will hold another faculty-to-faculty conference in the fall to finalize the revisions.

These will have implications for UNC's LAC and also for any future work on potentially revising the institutional learning outcomes for undergraduates.

c. Mini-Grant Call for Proposals

Reminder to encourage faculty and staff to consider submitting a proposal. These can support program assessment and/or assessment-related research. Awards are available up to \$1500 per proposal.

d. Request for available meeting times next year

Kim will send survey to determine available meeting times for next year.

2. Discussion Items

a. 2016 Assessment Fair

Over 63 people (including presenters) attended the 2015 Assessment Fair. The consensus was that the change to poster-only was a positive one. There was good energy and participation in the morning session, but the afternoon session didn't have as many people.

The Council discussed the possibility of collaborating with the Teaching and Learning Fellows to combine the Teaching and Learning Fair and the Assessment Fair into a single event. Since we have changed the format to poster-only, collaborating in the future would have the following benefits:

- There is currently some overlap with some faculty presenting the same material at each event. Collaborating would address this.
- The purpose of both events is similar, i.e., to encourage faculty and staff to share the work they are doing to improve teaching and learning. Collaboration would reinforce the relationship between teaching, learning, and assessment.
- Participation in both events is lower than ideal. Combining may draw a larger audience.

Some concern was expressed that student services professionals may not see a connection to their work if the two events were combined. Those present from student services areas suggested that intentional communication would help and that it would be positive to emphasize the role of teaching and learning outside the classroom.

The Council recommended asking the Teaching and Learning Fellows if they would be interested in collaborating next year. David has a meeting with them next week, and he will add this request to the agenda and report the results to Kim.

If the Teaching and Learning Fellows agree, we will schedule a date now, and then meet with them in the fall to begin planning the event, possibly in coordination with Academic Excellence Week.

b. Follow up on creating a professional development day in winter break (Needs assessment for professional development)

We tabled this item until fall.

c. Possible initiatives for next year

Kim briefly summarized possible activities related to institutional learning outcomes and coordination of strategic plan assessment activities. Work on the former would need to take into consideration what happens with the state's revision of the general education

competencies. For coordinating strategic plans' assessment, Kim mentioned that in recent conversations with representatives from the Equity and Diversity Council and Community and Civic Engagement, it may be useful to bring together representatives from these and some of the other 9 Plan committees to discuss coordinating some data collection practices where there is significant overlap in the type of information being requested. There may also be some opportunities to tap into existing or developing data collection options (Digital Measures, Program Review, etc.).

We tabled discussion of this item until fall. ([return to Contents](#))