Minutes of the Meeting of the Assessment Committee  
Thursday, November 14, 2013 – 3:30 p.m.  
Nebraskan Student Union – Room 312

Present:  Chair Beth Hinga, Stephanie Baer, Julie Campbell, Karin Covalt, Tony Earls, Angela Hollman, Janet Lear, Linda Lilienthal, Anita Lorentzen, Grace Mims, Scott Unruh, and Ron Wirtz

Absent:  Peggy Abels, Kurt Borchard, Chandra Daffer, Chris Jochum, Rochelle Krueger and Casey Schoenebeck

I.  Feedback from the North Central site visit team regarding assessment  
The North Central site visit went well with regard to assessment.  The Accreditation team was provided data through 2012 through guest access to WEAVE.  Feedback given to Dr. Hinga included their observation that assessment is widely acknowledged on this campus.  The major area in which we as a campus need to improve is in closing the loop, demonstrating we are using assessment data to make changes.

II.  Discussion about independent assessment data  
Hinga presented the committee members with information on independent assessment.  She shared an article authored by Daniel Lovering, Reuters, published in August 2013, which provides information on the Collegiate Learning Assessment Plus (CLA+).  It is a new standardized test for graduating students intended to give prospective employers a measure of their abilities.  The test will measure analysis, problem solving, writing, quantitative reasoning and reading, according to the Council for Aid to Education.  In the broader world of higher education, some circles appear to be favoring “competencies based” assessment and even degree programs.  The pendulum swings from standardized measures such as this to campus-determined measures.  This is just information, not a call for widespread use of the CLA+ at UNK.

Members of the committee discussed the preference for independent assessment.  Examples included the UNK Chemistry program that uses a certification through American Chemical Society.  In another example, Criminal Justice that major field tests in their area are $25 per student, and they don’t have funding for the approximately 60 students they graduate annually.

III.  Update on the General Studies assessment plan and how assessment is going  
The Revised Eng 102GS Assessment Proposal was distributed to the committee members.  Just recently, Hinga met with the English department chair and members of the English faculty to develop a revised assessment proposal.  The new proposal has faculty upload 25% of papers in their classes (chosen randomly by the assessment office) to Blackboard.  All identifiers will be removed.  Then a panel of English faculty will participate in a norming session before evaluating all uploaded papers according to the rubric approved by the General Studies Council.  Unruh asked if identical rubrics were used in all Eng 102GS classes, questioning the validity of the assessment if instructors use different rubrics for the assessment research papers.

GS will be assessing a course every three years.  Ideally, instructors from classes other than their own will evaluate student assessment assignments in GS classes.  Faculty in Oral Communication courses (Speech 100) have been evaluating students on site in classroom with iPads in real time.  That process has gone smoothly.
IV. **Annual Reports – completion rate and status initial review**
There are 73 entities in WEAVE that should file reports; 9 have long-term absences of data. Those nine will be removed from Weave because the programs no longer exist. Sixty-four entities have reporting up to date. Of those, nine have not completed reports (14%) this year.

V. **Reviewing annual reports and assessment plans**
Hinga has completed sixteen reviews. Since she is only half-time assessment and the other half time is Center for Teaching Excellence, she would like committee members to assist in reviewing some of the reports. She described what this would entail and will set out further information via e-mail.

VI. **Other**

NONE.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The date of the next assessment committee meeting will be announced.