

UAA Academic Assessment Overview

Prepared by the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs

2014

Peer Leadership in Program Improvement

The Academic Assessment Committee (AAC) is an elected and representative body of the Faculty Senate. It

was created to provide peer leadership, support, and review and to ensure that the ultimate beneficiaries of academic assessment are the students in UAA programs. The AAC supports faculty through review of periodic submissions, feedback on those submissions, and communication of shared expectations in academic

assessment. It also serves as an institutional forum for the exchange of ideas, information, and advice about academic assessment methods and practices. In academic year (AY) 2014 the AAC focused its efforts on outreach, facilitating the first annual Academic Assessment Seminar as well as the new assessment workshop series.

Learning Commission, who discussed national trends in academic assessment, with a focus on using assessment to improve teaching and learning. The day led off with a faculty discussion about student learning in UAA's general education requirements curriculum and ended with best-practices presentations by three UAA programs. This year's Academic Assessment Seminar will be held on September 12, 2014. It will include a follow-on discussion about general education assessment at the institutional level, keynote speaker Dr. Susan Hatfield, Senior Scholar at the Higher Learning Commission, and a best practices panel highlighting program improvements and lessons learned from some of UAA's own academic programs.

AY14 AAC Membership

Keith Cates, Chair
Holly Bell
Brian Bennett
Scott Downing
Bill Hazelton
Jennifer McFerran-Brock
Deborah Mole
Rebecca Moorman
Bill Myers
Kathi Trawver
Cindy Trussell
Kathleen Voge
Susan Kalina (ex-officio)
Helena Wisniewski (ex-officio)

Academic Assessment Workshops

In Spring 2014, the AAC, in partnership with OUAA and the Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence, presented the Assessment Building Blocks Workshop Series, designed to share knowledge and expertise in academic assessment with the UAA community. The workshops covered the building blocks of successful academic assessment including writing effective program

mission statements and program student learning outcomes, developing good rubrics and data collection methods, and making program improvements based on assessment results. Another workshop series will be presented in Spring 2015.

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Annual Academic Assessment Seminar

In Fall 2013, the AAC, in partnership with the General Education Requirement

Assessment Task Force and the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (OUAA), hosted the Academic Assessment Seminar. Over 80 faculty and staff attended. The event featured keynote speaker Dr. Robert Mundhenk, a Visiting Scholar at the Higher



Faculty members Steve Konkel, Kathleen Voge, and Kathi Trawver participate in the Academic Assessment Committee's workshop on program improvement. This was the third workshop in the Assessment Building Blocks Workshop Series.

Matanuska-Susitna College Summits

In AY14, Matanuska-Susitna College (Mat-Su) held three assessment summits, including one specifically for adjunct faculty. The fall summit included topics such as effective data collection and the involvement of adjunct faculty in the assessment process. The spring summit featured

Dr. Susan Hatfield, Senior Scholar with the Higher Learning Commission, who participated via distance with a keynote address titled, “Now what? Using Your Assessment Data.” Mat-Su’s next assessment summit will be held in fall 2015 and will include more discipline-specific examples of assessment practices.

Other Faculty Development Opportunities

OUAA supports colleges and programs in advancing academic assessment through faculty development.

In addition to funding assessment leaders to attend discipline-specific conferences, this past year OUAA was able to fund six faculty to attend the national conference General Education and Assessment: Disruptions, Innovations, and Opportunities hosted by the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). According to Associate Professor Kathi Trawver, this experience was a game changer. “Not only did I receive useful and applicable assessment content to bring back to my program,” she said, “it helped me to place the positive direction of current UAA assessment work within the context of national initiatives and best practices.”

Annual Academic Assessment Survey

The Annual Academic Assessment Survey enables UAA to highlight student achievement of program student learning outcomes and to recognize faculty efforts toward improving their programs. All active programs complete the online survey, which collects summary assessment data and provides evidence of ongoing assessment activity. As of June 2014, 86% of the expected surveys have been completed, with additional surveys expected this fall. The AY14 data indicate significant

faculty effort toward improving their programs. To date, 74% of programs that submitted reports indicated making improvements as a result of their assessment efforts. These improvements ranged from adjusting the curriculum and enhancing teaching methods to adjusting the assessment process itself.



Chair of the General Education Requirements Assessment Task Force, Bill Myers, leads faculty discussion at the first workshop in the Learning from our Faculty and Students Workshop Series in Fall 2013.

GERA Task Force Efforts

Over the last two years, the General Education Requirements Assessment Task Force (GERA) researched national best practices in general education assessment and engaged the institution in campus-wide dialogues about GER assessment at UAA. In fall 2013, the Task Force hosted Learning from our Faculty

and Students, a series of four workshops about GER assessment at UAA. In addition, the Task Force led a Faculty Senate Open Forum and created a pilot survey of faculty perceptions on the value and assessment of UAA’s nine GER student learning outcomes. The results of this survey will be discussed at the 2014 Academic Assessment Seminar. The Task Force submitted recommendations to the UAA Faculty Senate in April 2014. The recommendations include developing a sustainable, flexible and manageable assessment process, guided by a standing general education assessment committee. In AY15, the GERA will serve as a transition team to assist the institution in next steps.

AY14 GERA Membership

- William Myers, Chair*
- Jacqueline Cason*
- Herminia Din*
- Suzanne Forster*
- Kyle Hampton*
- Andrew Lessig*
- Deborah Mole*
- Kenrick Mock*
- Kathryn Ohle*
- Megan Ossiander-Gobeille*
- Sandra Pence*
- Shawnalee Whitney*
- Susan Kalina (ex-officio)*

For more information visit the following websites:

Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs: www.uaa.alaska.edu/undergraduate-academic-affairs/academic-assessment.cfm

Academic Assessment Committee: www.uaa.alaska.edu/governance/academic_assessment_committee/index.cfm

General Education Requirements Assessment Task Force: www.uaa.alaska.edu/governance/ger-assessment-task-force/index.cfm