Annual Report of the University Assessment Panel
2012-2013

The specific responsibilities of the University Assessment Panel (UAP) include reviewing the university mission statement, the IBHE focus statement for Northern Illinois University, and goals of the IBHE Public Agenda as a context for assessment; coordinating assessment activities at the undergraduate and graduate levels and in academic support areas; promoting campus-wide assessment activities to improve learning; overseeing the NIU College Portrait; supporting departments in preparing the assessment component of discipline-specific accreditation reviews; helping position the university for reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission; and reviewing department assessment activities in conjunction with program review.

An elected and an appointed faculty member from each of the following committees serve on the panel: the Undergraduate Coordinating Council, the Graduate Council, and the Academic Planning Council. The panel also includes a representative from the College of Law, the director of planning and assessment from Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, a representative from an academic support unit, a curricular dean, and a graduate student. The director of Institutional Research and the associate vice provost for academic outcomes assessment of the Office of Assessment Services serve as ex officio nonvoting members. The vice provost for academic planning and development chairs the panel.

The panel met twelve times during the academic year, beginning on 21 September 2012 and ending on 19 April 2013. The panel reviewed the assessment plans and status reports of thirty academic programs and eight student support units and approved funding requests for assessment initiatives from two academic programs and three support units. The panel also approved funding for two Capstone Course (re)designs.

The UAP reviewed results from the 2012 University Writing Project, as well as a report on annual assessment updates for the 2011-2012 academic year. The UAP chose ten outstanding assessment practices to be highlighted at the spring 2013 Assessment Expo. Panel members were invited to participate in the activities of the Campus Assessment Network and the Student Advisory Council on Learning Outcomes as well as attend the UAP Orientation.

Respectfully submitted,

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