Annual Report of the University Assessment Panel
2014-2015

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 eight times during the academic year, beginning on 19 September 2014 and ending on 3 April 2015. The panel reviewed the assessment plans and status reports of nineteen academic programs and four student support units and approved funding requests for assessment initiatives from three academic programs.

The UAP reviewed a report on annual assessment updates for the 2013-2014 academic year. The UAP chose ten outstanding assessment practices to be highlighted at the spring 2014 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,

Carolinda Douglass
Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Development