

Annual Report of the University Assessment Panel 2015-2016

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 six times during the academic year, beginning on 18 September 2015 and ending on 15 April 2016. The panel reviewed the assessment plans and status reports of twelve academic programs and two academic support units and approved funding requests for assessment initiatives from one academic program and one academic support unit. There were three programs, B.S. in Mathematical Sciences, M.S. in Mathematics and Ph.D. in Mathematical Sciences that were not turned in this year. The Department of Mathematical Sciences will be submitting those reports in the fall of 2016. The UAP has been unsuccessful, after repeated attempts in acquiring the report for the B.A./B.S. in Environmental Studies from the Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability and Energy. The report was originally due in October 2013.

The UAP reviewed a report on annual assessment updates for the 2014-2015 academic year. The UAP chose eleven outstanding assessment practices to be highlighted at the spring 2016 Assessment Expo. Panel members were also invited to participate in the UAP Orientation for programs that will be reviewed in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolinda Douglass
Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Development