

Annual Report of the University Assessment Panel 2016-2017

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 director of Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation serve as *ex officio* nonvoting members. The vice provost for Institutional Effectiveness chairs the panel.

The panel met eleven times during the academic year, beginning on 16 September 2016 and ending on 21 April 2017. The panel reviewed the assessment plans and status reports of twenty-six academic programs and six student support units.

Panel members were also invited to participate in the UAP Orientation for programs to be reviewed during the 2017-2018 academic year. These orientations were conducted on April 24, 2017 and April 25, 2017 for academic support units and academic programs respectively.

The UAP will review a report on the annual assessment updates for the 2015-2016 academic year in fall 2017. One hundred and thirty one academic degree programs submitted their annual assessment updates and received feedback on their submissions. The UAP chose several of the programs that demonstrated outstanding assessment practices to be highlighted at the *Tenth Annual Assessment Expo* 2017, held on April 7, 2017. This year's expo included a poster session, panel discussion with college leadership, and interactive roundtable discussions on the cycle of assessment. Feedback from the Expo evaluation was shared with the UAP members on April 21, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolinda Douglass
Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness