

Annual Report of the University Assessment Panel 2017-2018

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; 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 15 September 2017 and ending on 20 April 2018. The panel reviewed the assessment plans and status reports of thirty-one academic programs and three academic support units.

Panel members were also invited to participate in the UAP Orientation for programs to be reviewed during the 2018-2019 academic year. These orientations were conducted on April 25, 2018 and April 26, 2018 for academic support units and academic degree programs, respectively. [The UAP Status Report Orientation presentation](#) is available for download through the Office of Institutional Effectiveness website.

Regular updates regarding NIU's four-year Assurance Argument due to the Higher Learning Commission in June 2018 were provided to the UAP members throughout the year. Several of the panel members were directly involved in developing the Assurance Argument through their participation in the [2018 HLC Criteria Groups](#). In consideration of the intense work effort focused on HLC 2018 Assurance Review, the UAP accepted the Director of Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation's request to move the Annual Assessment Expo event from spring to a fall timeframe, beginning Fall 2018.

The UAP will review a report on the annual assessment updates for the 2016-2017 academic year in fall 2018. One hundred and thirty academic degree programs submitted their annual assessment updates and are in the process of receiving feedback on their submissions. Five new programs, and five current degree programs did not submit their annual assessment updates in 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolinda Douglass
Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness