

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT PANEL

2022-2023

The specific responsibilities of the University Assessment Panel (UAP) include reviewing the university mission statement and the IBHE *A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth* strategic plan 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.

The UAP, led by Jason Rhode, chair and interim director of Assessment and Accreditation, and Carrie Zack, assistant chair and associate director of Accreditation, Assessment and Evaluation, met 12 times, beginning September 16, 2022 and ending April 21, 2023.

To streamline work, UAP initiated a new report review process. The Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation Office (AAE) staff reviewed each assessment plan and mid-cycle status report, then shared draft feedback with the UAP. UAP members had documents available for optional review. Reports and draft feedback were discussed at meetings, then AAE staff met with program leaders to deliver feedback. AAE staff provided aggregated summaries of the feedback offered to program leaders and their response to the feedback. The UAP will adjust the process in 2023-2024. Two UAP members will join meetings with AAE staff and program leaders to discuss feedback.

Twenty-one assessment plans and mid-cycle status reports were reviewed in 2022-2023.

## College of Law

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- Law, J.D.

## College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - Chemistry M.S.       | - Geology and Environmental |
| - Chemistry Ph.D.      | Geosciences, B.S.           |
| - Philosophy B.A./B.S. | - Geography, B.A./B.S.      |
| - Philosophy M.A.      | - Geography, M.S.           |
| - Meteorology, B.S.    | - Geography, Ph.D.          |

## College of Health and Human Sciences

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| - Audiology, Au.D.              | - Nutrition, Dietetics and Wellness, |
| - Communicative Disorders, B.S. | B.S.                                 |
| - Communicative Disorders, M.A. | - Nutrition and Dietetics, M.S.      |
| - Health Sciences, B.S.         |                                      |

## College of Education

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| - Higher Education and Student | - Kinesiology B.S.           |
| Affairs, M.S. Ed.              | - Early Childhood, M.S. Ed.  |
| - Higher Education, Ed. D.     | - Special Education M.S. Ed. |

Throughout the year UAP members and AAE staff worked to restart co-curricular assessment. A definition of co-curricular was proposed along with recommendations for next steps via a white paper at the final meeting.

Proposed Definition: Non-credit-bearing programs and experiences that reinforce the university's mission and values and complement the formal curriculum to support student development and learning.

In March, UAP hosted Alicia Schatteman, General Education Committee chair, for a presentation on the preliminary work happening in support of building toward general education assessment. In spring 2023, department chairs were asked to map their general education courses' alignment to the Baccalaureate student learning outcomes to ensure fit. The General Education Committee would like to work together toward a healthy assessment in collaboration with UAP in 2023-2024.

To expand campus-wide assessment capabilities, UAP supported three AAE workshops. Carrie Zack led *Equity in Assessment* in November, Closing the Loop in February, and Authentic Assessment in April.

The UAP made several changes to their by-laws to add flexibility and ensure broad representation. Changes are indicated in bold.

- 4.8.1.1 Chair The assistant vice provost for assessment and accreditation **or provost's designee** in a similar role who shall serve as the chair of the University Assessment Panel, ex officio, nonvoting.
- 4.8.1.5 Student Representation (A) **One or two** students, undergraduate or graduate, shall be appointed annually as voting members of the panel. [...] **If the Student Government Association appointment deadline passes without filling this membership position, then the UAP may nominate one or more students to be a member of the panel.**
- 4.8.1.2 Faculty Representation Faculty members, which may include any full-time faculty **as defined by Article 6.1.1 of the University Constitution and Bylaws**, from each of the colleges, as follows: [...].

In 2022-2023, UAP was involved in various discussions and activities that have supported campus-wide assessment efforts to improve student learning in and out of the classroom.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Buhrow

Assistant Vice Provost for Assessment and Accreditation