

UAP Meeting  
Friday, January 15, 2021  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
ZOOM

**Members**

**Present:** Therese Arado, Dennis Brain, Jenn-Terng Gau, Nicholas Grahovec, Hasan Ferdowski, Elizabeth Moxley, Kathryn Jaekel, Alecia Santuzzi, Andrew Setterstrom, Ursula Sullivan, Carolinda Douglass, Ritu Subramony, Tawanda Gipson, Carrie Zack, Jeanie Sparacino

**Guests:** Ellen Olsen, Purush Damodaran, Christine Nguyen

1. Announcements

- NIU's Quality Initiative proposal was approved by Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Carolinda thanked everyone for their input and feedback on the proposal and will keep everyone informed as it moves forward.
- Ritu spoke about the first meeting with the Assessment Task Force on January 14, 2021. Representing the Assessment Task Force are four UAP members; Ritu Subramony, Alecia Santuzzi, Kathryn Jaekel and Ursula Sullivan. Alecia gave an update from the Assessment Task Force. She reported that the committee spent the hour defining the charge of the committee and what the deliverable goals will be. They plan to pitch a revision to the Student Learning Outcome assessment process at the faculty senate April meeting. The committee also discussed doing a Needs Assessment to determine the underlying reason(s) for resistance to the current assessment processes. In the next meeting they will strategize about how to get that information and move forward with pitching a revision. Ritu added that this would be a running item on the UAP agenda to keep everyone updated.
- General Education Assessment Update – Ritu Subramony and Carrie Zack are part of the General Education Assessment Subcommittee and they have been charged with a task of supporting the General Education Committee with their assessment plan. With Omar Ghrayeb's guidance, a GEC Assessment Sub-committee has formed. Carrie Zack presented some contrasting models of what other universities are doing for General Education assessment to provide options to consider when developing NIU's plan. The subcommittee will report to the full committee with ideas, so that the full committee can weigh in. The subcommittee will begin its work by establishing general education learning outcomes. They will considering whether the eight baccalaureate outcomes or a subset of them will suffice for this purpose or whether it would be best to draft a new set of general education outcomes aligned to the baccalaureate outcomes. Carrie Zack announced that the IUPUI conference will be October 24-27, 2021. It is virtual and free again this year. Registration will be open until October 11, 2021. Jeanie will send an email to all UAP members with information.

2. Review of Assessment Plans and Status Reports

- B.S. Medical Lab Sciences

- Ellen Olsen gave an overview of the program. The program is up for accreditation in February so this process came at a good time for everything to come together.
- UAP Panel gave feedback and suggestions on the major areas:
  - SLO's – It was suggested to focus more on research, and making more of a connection to the baccalaureate outcomes.
  - Curriculum map –Consider using the lab exam as a stand-alone assessment tool, instead of adding in the pre lab quizzes. Department agreed.
  - Methods – Department could have some course embedded assessments from courses that are strong in theoretical content. This may be an easier way to show how the students are doing.
  - Results – providing remedial assistance to make sure we are filling those gaps. The new techniques being used last couple of years seem to be providing that. Timing, maybe data should be gathered sooner rather than later. Is the data being desegregated? Maybe distilling it down to different categories in order to see how the student is doing might help to target strategies accordingly.
  - Use of results – Ellen stated possibly starting this fall with the seniors to start data collection sooner than later. Ritu commented that you don't want to add so much data that it becomes unbearable for the faculty as well as the students.
- B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering
  - Additional introductions were made for the second part of the meeting
  - This program has to adhere to the ABET standards since this is an accredited program. Purush Damodaran explained that ABET has very specific standards for the SLOs and by aligning the reports he feels they have a solid assessment plan, but would like to hear from the UAP, since there is always room for improvement.
  - UAP gave feedback and suggestions on the major areas:
    - SLO's – UAP members appreciated the operational definitions added to the report took it to another level. Purush agreed that it gives more granular level in how we look at the data and helps the reader understand the data that is provided. Katy suggested adding a question to their exit survey whether they are male or female and what has been their experiences during course work. Something they will look into adding to their exit survey.
    - Curriculum map – great charts
    - Methods – Very limited summative assessment – The charts are especially beneficial. The alumni feedback is not included but this was discussed
    - Results – Great job - Great representation of the data via graphs and charts

- Use of results – consider including alumni data from past years to understand career progression due to learning outcomes. UAP would encourage this program to further delve into specific subgroups’ experiences in this program by using the exit survey or alumni survey.
- M.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering
  - This program has students from all different majors, making it very unique.
    - SLO’s – More background needed in the introduction, further explanation of courses required. BS degree SLOs feel more advanced than MS degree
    - Curriculum map-Identifies Beginning and Proficient, no Developing.
    - Methods – The Master’s Thesis evaluation could be more specific to particular SLOs. Program might benefit from more formative assessment during the program
    - Results – **Good** use of graphs and tables.
    - Use of results – May want to explain more in the introduction about the program and how it works. Find out how specific student groups are performing, experiencing, and/or completing course work.

### 3. Other Business-Part II

- Continue Conversation on Equity in Assessment
  - In October, UAP discussed definitions of equity and how diversity and equity impacts teaching, learning, and assessment practice. UAP members expressed interest in continuing the conversation.
    - Carrie Zack reviewed three frameworks that guide equity work in the field of assessment – Culturally Responsive Assessment, Socially Just Assessment, and Critical Assessment
    - UAP intends to establish a subcommittee of UAP to work on addressing equity in UAP’s feedback checklist/rubric. An email will be sent out email asking members to indicate their interest in serving on this subcommittee. A charge for the group will be formally discussed at the next UAP meeting.

### 4. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:07p.m.  
 Next meeting Friday, February 5, 2021