

UAP Meeting  
Friday, March 5, 2021  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
ZOOM

**Members**

**Present:** Andrew Setterstrom, Alecia Santuzzi, Ursula Sullivan, Kathryn Jaekel, Nicholas Grahovec, Hasan Ferdowsi, Hyun-Mee Joung, Elizabeth Moxley, Brandon Lagana, Therese Arado, Dennis Brain, Jenn-Terng Gau, Nestor Osorio, Carolinda Douglass, Ritu Subramony, Carrie Zack, Tawanda Gipson, Jeanie Sparacino, Audra Jensen

**Guests:** Mansoor Alam, Mansour Tahernehzadi, Benedito Fonseca, Donald Zinger, Lichuan Liu

1. Announcements

- a. Audra Jensen was welcomed as the new UAP Graduate Student Advisor-introductions were made with all UAP Members
- b. Ritu Subramony reported on the work to establish a UAP webpage on the AAE website, including pertinent items such as templates and work that the Equity and Assessment Subcommittee is doing
- c. Update from the Assessment Task Force-Kathryn Jaekel stated that the Assessment Task Force is busy analyzing the data from the Qualtrics survey of those involved with departmental assessment reports and is working hard to develop recommendations informed by the findings
- d. Update on General Education assessment-Ritu Subramony stated that Ritu Subramony and Carrie Zack were given a charge to help the General Education Committee come up with an assessment plan, hoping to have a draft of a plan for the UAP to provide feedback on by April
- e. Wisdom Wednesday Panel session, “Inquiry into effective teaching and learning using assessment”– Ritu Subramony shared that five faculty members were involved in a panel discussion that focused on student learning during the pandemic, ongoing assessment in the classroom, and how the assessment mindset has been informed by what has been happening and how they have learned to deal with issues that have come up in student learning. There is a recording and AAE plans to put it on their website.
- f. HLC Quality Initiative update – Carolinda Douglass shared that there will be a kick off meeting on March 17, 2021 for all Chairs and Directors of departments, Deans and Associate Deans. To inform people about the initiative, they will host a panel discussion involving those who have done well addressing equity issues in their courses. There will be two breakout sessions: one on data and one on pedagogy.

2. Continuing the Conversation on Equity in Assessment

- a. UAP Equity and Assessment Subcommittee Update- Therese Arado shared that the Equity and Assessment Subcommittee is involved in ongoing conversation about how assessment can be used to encourage work on diversity, equity, and inclusion, to showcase where work it is occurring, and to provide windows into where more work

could be done. At the same time, the group is discussing how this can be incorporated into assessment as part of the usual work of faculty and not be an add-on.

- b. Breakout rooms- UAP members broke into four small groups to discuss (1) Benefits of assessing equity? (2) Barriers to reaching those benefits? And (3) What can we (UAP) do to reduce those barriers?
  - c. Equity and Assessment Sub-Committee Charge
    - i. NIU has as part of its mission to facilitate Northern Illinois University's mission and dedication to diversity, equity, and social justice. To facilitate this mission, the Equity and Assessment Subcommittee has been formed to help guide, revise, and/or develop practices and tools for the University Assessment Panel. These will serve to facilitate assessments that promote equity, identify equity gaps, and work to close those gaps. The primary goals of this subcommittee will be to:
      - Promote assessment practices that highlights equity in student learning, outcomes, and assessments
      - Encourage development of SLOs and assessment methods that align with equity and inclusion goals
      - Help programs/units identify equity gaps in their assessment methods
      - Support university programs in the use of assessment practices to identify equity challenges and analyze the effectiveness of interventions/solutions
    - d. Vote on the Charge for Equity and Assessment Subcommittee –Ursula Sullivan made a motion, Alecia Santuzzi seconded, and the charge passed with majority vote.
3. Review of Assessment Plans and Status Reports – Introductions were made
- a. B.S. in Electrical Engineering – Dr. Mansoor Alam gave an overview of the program UAP Panel gave feedback and suggestions on the major areas:
    - i. SLO's – Uses ABET seven outcomes (required), consider clarifying how B.S. in Electrical Engineering is different from the other engineering programs, consider breaking down SLO #2 into separate pieces
    - ii. Curriculum map – Great job with suggestion to focus on courses offered by the program
    - iii. Methods – Employer surveys may be useful
    - iv. Results – Result section seemed a little incomplete in the report, though assessment process has built-in discussions and analysis of data around how the core competencies are being met and whether students are learning what they need to know
    - v. Use of results – make the most use of data
  - b. B.S. in Biomedical Engineering  
UAP gave feedback and suggestions on the major areas:
    - i. SLO's- Uses ABET seven outcomes (required). Suggestion to clarify what makes Biomedical Engineering different from Electrical Engineering.
    - ii. Curriculum map – Great job aligning each outcome to ABET standards and then further defining them into objectives. Suggestion was made that some of the methods listed as summative (likely summative at course level) could be listed as formative at the program level.

- iii. Methods – Suggestion was made to consider disaggregating data to see if different groups of students that the program is trying to engage with are all attaining competency.
- iv. Results – Consider further disaggregation and whether important information could be revealed by going deeper into the results, such as disaggregating by variables of interest, such as gender, race, Pell status, transfer/freshman, international etc.
- v. Use of Results- Consider adding more to the introduction to help the reader understand your process and accreditation how that affects what you are reporting.

#### 4. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:02p.m.

Next meeting Friday, March 19, 2021