

UAP Meeting  
Friday, April 16, 2021  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
ZOOM

**Members**

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

**Guests:** Rod Caughron, Marc Falkoff, Denise Halverson, Alicia Schatteman, Peet Smith

1. Announcements

- a. Update from the Assessment Task Force- Marc Falkoff summarized the Task Force Report. It recommended modifying the annual reporting process while leaving the mid-status reporting as-is. Suggested modifications to annual reporting included allowing academic programs which have specialized accreditors to submit the annual report they prepare for their accreditor as their annual assessment report (provided that assessment of student learning is part of it). Some version of the existing Annual Assessment Update template will still be used for all other programs; however, it was recommended that the template be converted to an online format. In addition, the Task Force report called for enhancing support for AAE to allow staff adequate resources to engage in assessment training and outreach efforts. Carolinda Douglass commented that this is a fantastic report, very insightful, and that she endorses the suggestion for an online reporting tool. She also asked what does more support for AAE mean. Marc replied that the language is ambiguous but the meaning includes financial support and resource support. The task force wanted something to be included for the future but they can rephrase it or add a sentence or two to clarify if that is helpful. A motion was made by Therese Arado, Motion to receive this report and to thank the Assessment Task Force for investing their time and effort in this continued quality improvement, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alecia Santuzzi, passed, 11 yes votes.
- b. Update on HLC Quality Initiative – Carolinda Douglass gave an update. The steering committee is working on a website to host materials, so you will have access there (when it is up and running) and also via Teams. The website should be done this summer.
- c. HLC annual conference presentation – Carrie Zack gave an update on the presentation that she, Ritu Subramony, and Carolinda Douglass delivered during the annual conference. The presentation was prerecorded, with live questions via a chat function during the scheduled conference time. The presentation included an explanation of NIU’s context, within which our work to address equity with assessment is taking place. Important aspects of NIU’s context included NIU’s mission and goals as well as other efforts to address equity on campus, such as the Quality Initiative. The main focus of the presentation was the UAP’s discussions on equity, the process of developing an appropriate charge for the UAP Equity and

Assessment Subcommittee and the content of the rubric the UAP uses to provide feedback to programs. Carolinda mentioned that the theme for the conference was related to equity, inclusion, diversity issues, and that she thinks NIU is positioned perfectly moving forward. Ritu suggested putting the conference recording on Teams.

2. Continuing the Conversation on Equity in Assessment
  - a. UAP Equity and Assessment Subcommittee Update- Carrie Zack summarized the proposed change to UAP bylaws to make the Equity and Assessment Subcommittee permanent.
  - b. Vote on proposal to amend the Bylaws– Therese Arado made a motion and Alecia Santuzzi supported this as the second. There was a discussion about the proposed language to be. After the discussion, Therese Arado made a motion to vote on the proposal to amend the Bylaws with the proposed changes to the language, Nestor Osorio provided support as the second, and the motion passed with 13 yes votes.
3. General Education assessment – GEC Members- Ritu Subramony made introductions
  - a. Rod Caughron, GEC Chair, gave an overview on the GEC program. He said that the GEC should have proposal for a full assessment plan by fall 2021. Ritu gave a PowerPoint presentation describing the work that the GEC had done so far to develop its proposed student learning outcomes.
4. Other Business
  - a. Last UAP Meeting for AY 20-21 – Carolinda commented that this was a great year to be on the UAP and she is so glad that we are moving in the direction that we are.
  - b. Carolinda Douglass’ Retirement – Therese thanked Carolinda for all her hard work, vision, and keeping student learning at the front and center of all assessment work. She has been a great chair of the UAP. Everyone agreed, wished her the best moving forward.
5. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.  
Next meeting fall 2021