Assessment & Evaluation Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, August 9, 2016
Magnolia Office Park South, Suite 200
10:00-11:00AM

Present. Dr. Donna Slovensky (Chair), Dr. Catherine Danielou, Dr. Elizabeth Fisher, Ms. Samira Laouzai, Dr. Marjorie Price, Ms. Allison Solomon.

Absent. Dr. Scott Boyar, Dr. Nataliya Ivankova, Dr. Scott Snyder.

Dr. Donna Slovensky called the meeting to order at 9:57AM.

Welcome and Introductions (Verify Member Roster)

Dr. Slovensky asked that committee members’ email addresses, campus phone numbers, and campus addresses be added to the member roster. Dr. Scott Snyder, Director of the Center for Educational Accountability, holds a faculty appointment in the School of Education. Dr. Marjorie Price, Faculty Senate Representative to a university-wide committee, teaches sections of philosophy courses online and others, on-ground. The point was made that although Drs. Slovensky and Danielou hold administrative appointments in the School of Health Professions and College of Arts and Science, respectively, a large amount of their time is spent as faculty members with a long history to support their experience. Action. Cynthia revised the roster to include member email addresses, campus phone numbers, and campus addresses and emailed to AEC members.

Review of April 13th Minutes, approved via email

The Minutes from April 13th were approved via email; however, the committee referenced topics in today’s meeting—UAB-Certified QM reviewers, OLC Scorecard, disaster relief plan.

Discussion of Committee Name Change and Focus

UAB policy does not come out of the eLearning Advisory Council or the three Committees. During the past three years, the Assessment and Evaluation Committee discovered a gap in assessment and evaluation of online learning at the university which led to the change in name from Policies and Procedures Committee to Assessment and Evaluation Committee (AEC). The committee has built a solid infrastructure to focus on high-quality eLearning for faculty at UAB.

Dr. Slovensky stated that assessment needs to be done on two levels: 1) each school assesses based on their unique needs, and 2) overall campus assessment. Currently, the primary assessment is done for on-ground coursework. Quality Matters is the best method for assessing online courses at UAB. The School of Health Professions plans to obtain QM certification for the following programs: Healthcare Quality and Safety and Low Vision Rehabilitation. Specific courses in other programs may be pursued.
According to Dr. Danielou, each department in the College of Arts and Sciences is charged with assessing their courses since some online courses would result in poor performance based on predictive data and correlates. Disability Support Services staff advise students based on their disability as to whether on-ground or online would be better for them according to Allison.

A student assessment survey needs to be created in order for eLPS to evaluate courses in Canvas. UAB eLearning has prepared a faculty assessment survey as tasked by the eLearning Advisory Council. **Action.** Dr. Slovensky would like for Dr. Snyder to review the survey prior to distribution this fall based on his background in assessment.

**Review of eLPS Strategic Plan**

Today's meeting begins Year 4 of the UAB eLearning Strategic Plan for the AEC. Dr. Fisher completed a [Gap Analysis of SACSCOC Requirements and Quality Standards in UAB Online and Blended Programs](http://www.sacscoc.org) in 2014, on behalf of the committee. Earlier this year she led eLearning and Professional Studies in earning an Exemplary Status on the Quality Scorecard overseen by the Online Learning Consortium (OLC), a national leader in the advancement of quality online learning. **Action.** Dr. Slovensky would like for the AEC to revisit the Strategic Plan.

**Planning Next Steps and Work Assignments**

1. Dr. Slovensky asked if there are schools that AEC should review for assessment and evaluation of programs. Allison suggested the [Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education](http://www.casu.org) (CAS) website which Dr. John Jones is promoting among UAB Student Affairs staff members. Dr. Slovensky asked that the AEC review the CAS website.

2. Randy Pewitt, Executive Director of Emergency Management & Safety, is glad to collaborate with eLPS in placing the UAB Disaster Plan inside Canvas. **Action.** Dr. Fisher will send an email to committee members regarding this joint endeavor.

3. Dr. Price will communicate with the Chair of the Department of Philosophy about Dr. Fisher attending one of their department meetings to introduce Quality Matters, online teaching with quality instructors, etc.

Dr. Slovensky adjourned the meeting at 11:05AM.

The next meeting of the Assessment & Evaluation Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11th at 10:00AM in MOPS 200.