

Amendment to the Constitution of the Portland State University Faculty
3 April 2023 (Introduced 6 March 2023)

Institutional Assessment Council (IAC)

Procedural note from Secretary:

Pursuant to Article VIII of the Faculty Constitution, this proposed constitutional amendment was introduced at the March meeting and then reviewed by the Advisory Council for "proper form and numbering." It now appears before Senate for a vote. If any modifications (amendments to the amendment) are approved, the vote on the modified text would take place at the next meeting. A two-thirds majority is required for approval of the final text.

Proposed Amendment to the Faculty Constitution

The Constitution of the Portland State University Faculty is hereby amended to create the Institutional Assessment Council (IAC), to be constituted beginning Fall 2023, by inserting the following text into Article IV, section 4(4) in the appropriate alphabetical order, and renumbering other committee listings accordingly:

Institutional Assessment Council. This council shall consist of: three faculty members from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (one from each of its divisions), one from each of the other divisions, one graduate student and one undergraduate student. The Committee on Committees shall endeavor to appoint faculty members who have some experience with undergraduate and graduate level assessment or curriculum development in their programs. Additionally, voting ex-officio members shall include, but not limited to: Director of Assessment and Research (UNST), Accreditation and Compliance Coordinator (OAA), Director and Associate Director of Teaching, Learning and Assessment (OAI), Director of Assessment and Evaluation (OHSU/PSU SPH), Director of Assessment and Accreditation (COE), and faculty with formal assessment roles at the college or division level. The IAC Chairperson(s) shall update the list of voting ex-officio members annually, and provide the Committee on Committees an updated IAC membership roster by June 1 of each year. Consultants shall include the following or their representatives: Student Activities and Leadership Programs, Graduate School, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Office of Institutional Research and Planning. The Chairperson(s) shall be chosen from Council membership.

The committee shall:

1. Create principles and recommendations for assessment planning that are sustainable and learning-focused, and reflect our DEI values and priorities.
2. Provide support aimed at enhancing the quality of student learning through assessment activities.
3. Design frameworks for promoting and supporting assessment long term, both at program and institutional levels, including interdisciplinary programs.
4. Serve as the primary advisory mechanism for institutional assessment planning.
5. Coordinate with OAA and the Assistant and Associate Deans group the implementation of Annual Assessment Updates.

6. Make recommendations on the policies guiding assessment initiatives and choices guiding institutional assessment.
7. Act in liaison with appropriate committees.
8. Report to the Faculty Senate at least once a year.

Background and rationale

Background: The Institutional Assessment Council was formed as an Administrative Committee in 2008, in response to the need for leadership and expertise in institutional assessment. The Council has worked to promote greater understanding of program and institutional assessment, advocated for assessment initiatives, and established institutional structures that support effective, sustainable assessment practices. This proposed constitutional amendment would establish the Institutional Assessment Council as a Constitutional Committee as governed by the provisions of the Faculty Constitution.

Rationale: In March 2019, a report from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) assessed Portland State to be not in compliance with program assessment of student learning. In the Faculty Senate discussion of this report, concerns were expressed about the need for greater involvement of the Senate in assessment (Minutes of the PSU Faculty Senate, 4 February 2019, p. 51). Since that time, the University has made progress in addressing NWCCU's concerns; however, questions remain about faculty oversight and constitutional involvement in assessment. In light of increasing expectations from NWCCU for evidence of activities to assess student learning, it is important that faculty have determination over initiatives connected to institutional assessment, as well as the development of institutional policy connected to assessment.

The following faculty senators endorse the amendment:

1. Matt Chorpenning
2. Enrique Cortez
3. Jill Emery
4. Tim Finn
5. Isabel Jáen Portillo
6. Sybil Kelley
7. Nadine Sterling
8. Sonja Taylor
9. Chien Wern
10. Lindsay Wilkinson