IAC Annual Report

Institutional Assessment Council Annual Report to the Faculty Senate
March 7, 2014

In October 2013, the Institutional Assessment Council (IAC) reconvened after a one-year hiatus. Council member represent a variety of departments, offices and programs and have roles in those units related to assessment practices and policies.

IAC Members 2013-2014 Academic Year:

Rowanna Carpenter, Director of Assessment and Clusters, UNST
Micki Caskey, Associate Dean, GSE
Peter Collier, CLAS
Jeanne Davidson, Assistant University Librarian for Public Services
Jim Hook, Associate Dean, MCECS
Kathi Ketcheson, Director, OIRP
Leslie McBride, Interim Director, CUPA
Tyler Matta, Manager, Student Learning and Success, SBA
Suzanne Matthews, Assessment Coordinator, OAI
Jeremy Parra, Assistant Professor, CLAS
Janelle Voegele, Director, Teaching, Learning and Assessment, OAI (IAC Co-Chair)
Vicki Wise, Director of Assessment, EMSA (IAC Co-Chair), Replacement Lisa Hatfield, EMSA

Ex-Officio:
Sukhwant Jhaj, OAA
Margaret Everett, OGS

Staff:
Robert Halstead, OAA

Assessment Coordinator Suzanne Matthews joined the Office of Academic Innovation in February 2014. Suzanne comes to PSU from Mercyhurst University and brings many years of experience in postsecondary assessment, instructional systems design, and program assessment strategies for a range of learning environments (i.e., classroom, online, etc.).
IAC Charge:

The IAC will promote and oversee the continued implementation of assessment across the campus, working closely with three offices: Undergraduate Studies, Institutional Research and Planning, and the Office of Academic Innovation. It will create guidelines for assessment planning and implementation that reflect student learning at the program, department and institutional level.

In cooperation with the ex-officio members, the Council will design a strategy for addressing assessment long-term. It will oversee the implementation of key learning goals for institutional assessment. The IAC will serve as the review mechanism for assessment on campus and coordinate with the assistant and associate deans group the implementation of systemic annual reporting by school and colleagues. It will create an annual document on the status of assessment that will form the basis for institutional reports, such as those required by the PSU Faculty Senate and the regional accreditation body, NWCCU.

The IAC proposed the following goals to complete by June 2014:

1. Develop documents and communication strategies to answer the question, “Why assessment?”
2. Complete an inventory of current assessment work, including documentation of effective assessment practices;
3. Create a plan for tying assessment processes into program review cycles;
4. Create a timeline and work plan for continued implementation of assessment across campus; clarify the role of IAC and related offices.

Goal 1 progress:

The Council decided to build upon previous IAC communication and web presence efforts by creating an interactive online assessment resource. This online resource will include software for interaction and sharing models across programs, assessment resources and principles, and multimedia examples of innovative and effective work across units and colleagues. The site is currently under development with the goal of launching by September 2014.

Goal 2 progress:

Assessment Coordinator Suzanne Matthews, OAI, is creating a framework for organizing an inventory of program assessment work. The Office of Academic Innovation and the Office of Institutional Planning and Research are in discussion about a long-term technical solution for a campus-wide assessment database.
Goal 3 progress:

The Office of Academic Innovation has created a work plan for communicating with units scheduled for program review between 2014-2016, with the goal of supporting efficient and holistic methods for incorporating assessment efforts into program review processes.

Goal 4 progress:

The IAC’s strategic planning process is informed by a recent report on PSU’s assessment activities created by Dr. Bill Rickards, consultant in higher education research and evaluation. During summer and fall 2013, Dr. Rickards conducted telephone and office interviews with PSU faculty, staff and administrators, examined institutional documents, and reviewed website materials related to institutional assessment. The report outlines Portland State’s assessment history, select practices and examples across colleges, principle considerations for future assessment activity, and recommendations for next steps. The following summarizes recommendations for immediate, mid-range, and long-term priorities:

**Recommended immediate priorities:**

- Prepare a map of assessment program and practices
- Invest faculty as co-investigators in questions stemming from real issues in programs (ex: retention, class size)
- Highlight assessment practices at program and department levels, including exploring assessment practices with specific curriculum content

**Recommended mid-range priorities:**

- IAC and OAI take up selected assessment initiatives, for example:
  - Data from Provost Challenges
  - Senior Capstones
  - Research agenda for teaching, learning and curriculum
- Collaborate across campus regarding increasing enrollment, persistence to graduation and number of graduates
- Expand relations between IAC, OAI and Senate
- Expand and refine use of recurring program review
- Develop and implement full studies of graduate follow-up
- Anticipate collaborations between OAI and other divisions to examine PSU education during time of increased enrollment, persistence to graduation, etc.
**Recommended long-range priorities**

Leverage relationships across the institution to examine larger questions of educational impact, including:

- Use of longitudinal studies of learning outcomes after college
- Examine trends in educational programming as they have develop
- Review continuing agenda in teaching learning and curriculum

Implement individualized research agenda at the department and program levels

- Consider a research agenda for teaching, learning and assessment
- Strengthen Faculty-in-Residence program to include select research initiatives

In addition to considering the above recommendations, the IAC will work with the Office of Academic Innovation to incorporate feedback from faculty, chairs, associate deans and deans on assessment strategic priorities and goals.