Minutes of the Meeting of the Assessment Committee  
Monday, February 7, 2011 – 3:30 p.m.  
Academic Affairs Conference Room, Founder’s Hall 2147

Present: Chair Jeanne Butler, Paul Bishop, Wayne Briner, Karin Covalt, Tobi DeLong-Hamilton, Chris Jochum, Mary Kommers, Janet Lear, Richard Meznarich, Susan Mueller, Cindy Shultz, Scott Unruh and Doug Waterfield

Absent:  NONE

Guests: Daren Snider, Director of General Studies

The meeting was called to order by Director of Assessment, Jeanne Butler, at the above time and place. Butler introduced three new members of the Assessment Committee, namely, Chris Jochum, Modern Languages; Cindy Shultz, Student Affairs; and Doug Waterfield, Art & Art History.

New Business:

I. Update on Assessment of Portal courses in Fall 2010.
   Dr. Daren Snider started collecting data from portal courses offered last fall. Last semester marked the introduction of Task Stream for student use in GA Portal courses. Of approximately 600 student, 486 utilized Task Stream, which is approximately 81%. Faculty could opt for any of the six Common Assessment assignments for Portal Courses and were to use the common AAC&U-based rubric to grade assignments in TaskStream. Faculty that evaluated on-line were 21 of 26. Four faculty had problems using Task Stream and will need further training, and one faculty member refused to do the assessment. Snider distributed a handout and went through some results from the survey of faculty who taught portal courses in the fall.

   It is obvious that Task Stream and General Studies need to become part of UNK culture. He advised that faculty orientation on Task Stream will be on-going. The Center for Teaching Excellence will have a program in March that deals with Task Stream. Task Stream offers personal help to faculty and students on an on-going basis through their help function.

II. Update on the CAAP data collection of Freshman and Seniors
   CAAP testing in essay writing and critical thinking was completed for freshmen in October and November, 2010. The testing was done in existing Portal Courses. Two hundred freshman in these courses took one of the exams. Two hundred graduating seniors will be taking the same two exams. To encourage participation by graduating seniors they were given the opportunity to earn $50 for completing each exam. These approach was very successful and the required number of participants has been easy to arrange. The testing of seniors will be completed by February 28th. After the exams have been graded by ACT, comparisons can be made between freshman and senior scores to determine the increase in writing and critical thinking skills while at UNK.
III. Update on the use of E-portfolios by departments
Currently 4 departments on campus are going to implement TaskStream e-portfolios for assessment of their graduates. These include Art, Communications, Psychology, and Social Work. The General Studies program and Teacher Education have already implemented TaskStream. Currently students are required to buy a 4-year license for TaskStream when they take their first GS Portal Course or when their department begins to use it for assessment. Hopefully, it will be possible in the future to use technology funds to help students with the cost of TaskStream. Departments implementing TaskStream will receive $1,000 and the faculty member with responsibility for TaskStream will receive $500.

IV. Update on Curriculum Mapping training for Summer 2011
There are seven departments left that could do curriculum mapping during the summer 2011. If they elect to do so, the departments receive $1000 and the faculty member going through the training will receive $500. Departments have begun to sign up to do this for the summer.

Butler also has some money for travel award to attend assessment conferences or do assessment research.

V. Assessment Awards Luncheon on March 1, 2011
The annual Assessment Awards luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 1, at 12 noon in the Cedar Room of the Nebraskan. An e-mail invitation will be forthcoming for all committee members.

VI. Update of assessment process in Student Affairs
Cindy Shulz reported that the first meeting of the Student Affairs assessment committee was recently held. The March committee meeting will review outcomes submitted by the SA directors before submitting them to Oravec. In April, Dean Oravec will review and finalize the outcomes. Outcomes will be put into WEAVEonline by Oct. 2011.

Other:

I. NONE

There being no further business to come before the Committee, meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be Monday, March 7, 2011, at 3:30 p.m. in FNDH 2147.