Minutes of the Meeting of the Assessment Committee  
Monday, February 6, 2012 – 3:30 p.m.  
Academic Affairs Conference Room, Founder’s Hall 2147

Present: Karin Covalt, Tony Earls, Chris Jochum, Mary Kommers, Janet Lear, Anita Lorentzen, Susan Mueller, Scott Unruh and Doug Waterfield

Absent: Jeanne Butler, Wayne Briner, and Angela Hollman

Guests: Daren Snider, General Studies Director; Daryl Kelley, Professor of Sociology

The meeting was called to order by Scott Unruh, at the above time and place. This was the first meeting for the newest member of the Assessment Committee, Anita Lorentzen, representing Faculty Senate.

Old Business:

I. NONE

New Business:

I. Update on General Studies Assessment from Fall 2011  

(D Snider)

General Studies Director Daren Snider shared a handout on GS Program Assessment outlining assessment in Foundational courses, portal courses, distribution and capstone courses. Current UNK GS assessments meet our obligations to North Central. Snider told committee members that he welcomes suggestions about General Studies assessment.

He reported that Task Stream is now being used in General Studies courses. Assessment Director Jeanne Butler and Snider conducted an on-line Task Stream Webinar last fall to about 1000 participants. Task Stream has used UNK as a “success story”.

Unruh asked about faculty feedback on TaskStream. Snider feels that faculty see the need for the process, but they do not like the fact that they are expected to “sell” students on purchasing it. There is a request to incorporate the fee for TaskStream software into the other fees students are currently paying.

Lear told the committee that the College of Business and Technology had planned to initiate the use of TaskStream into their BSAD 100 classes. However, when students were told about expectations for them to purchase and use TaskStream in the class, they seemed totally surprised. Last semester in the College of B&T had planned that two classes of 70 students each would utilize TaskStream. Therefore, it is expected that 200+ students per semester will begin using TaskStream upon implementation by B&T. Snider responded that student learn of TaskStream at SAE, at New Student Orientation, and at Transfer Days. It was suggested that academic advisors should discuss TaskStream when they help students register for classes.
II. Report on the e-portfolio session from the AAC&U conference in January 2012.
Snider shared a handout on e-portfolio ideas that he brought back from the Association of American Colleges and Universities. This is the premier assessment conference on General Education.
A large community college in Salt Lake has made some great strides in using e-portfolios in Gen Education. Snider shared and discussed handouts on *Reflective Writing for SLCC’s Gen Ed e-portfolios: A Common Sense Rubric*, as well as *Sample Reflection Prompts*.

Lorentzen asked why the Blackboard portfolio tool was not being used as it is already available to students at no cost. Snider advised that TaskStream analyzes data for assessment whereas Blackboard does not.

Daryl Kelley reported on his experiences at the AAC&U conference. UNK seems well head of the curve on assessment practices. Assessment should belong more to the faculty. Assessment seems to be more a cultural of compliance rather than a culture of assessment. Mapping projects seem to present an opportunity to talk about assessment. George Kuh, project director of National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment, an IU retiree and an expert in assessment, did an exercise wherein everyone started by standing up. If their institution did not do an assessment activity that Kuh stated, participants had to sit down. Kelley was able to remain standing throughout the entire exercise.

Terrel Rhodes, VP of Office of Quality, Curriculum, and Assessment, AAC&U, discussed the value rubrics. We developed out portal course rubrics from AAC&U value rubrics.

Project at Elon University received a national grant for a cooperative project between students and faculty. The student received a stipend for pairing with a faculty member to critically evaluate the course. The student reported a deeper understanding of the importance of a syllabus, as well as a deeper understanding of learning & teaching and incorporating all classroom activities.

IV. Rubric used to evaluate and provide feedback to departments on all assessment reports submitted Fall 2011 in preparation for the 2013-14 accreditation visit was distributed and discussed.
Butler had forwarded for distribution to the committee the rubric that was used for 2011 departmental assessment reports. Butler will give feedback to the departments based on this rubric. Although Butler has already done so, she asked that members share this document with the faculty members in their respective departments who are responsible for the annual assessment reporting.

V. Task Stream Case Study of General Studies Assessment.
Unruh asked Snider to discuss article. Discussion ensued. (article attached)

VI. Other.
Mueller advised the committee that the library is looking at getting ready to start assessment of what they are doing with regard to services provided to students.
Earls reported that Student Affairs assessment is a bottom-up model rather than a top-down. Student Affairs has hired Campus Labs as consultants to help them. Earls will share the rubric with the assessment committee.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Committee will be Monday, March 5, in FNDH 2147.