Minutes of the Meeting of the Assessment Committee
Monday, March 5, 2012 – 3:30 p.m.
Academic Affairs Conference Room, Founder’s Hall 2147

Present: Jeanne Butler, Karin Covalt, Tony Earls, Angela Hollman, Chris Jochum, Mary Kommers, Janet Lear, Susan Mueller and Scott Unruh

Absent: Anita Lorentzen and Doug Waterfield

The meeting was called to order by Jeanne Butler, at the above time and place. Butler introduced Dr. William Wozniak as the newest member of the Assessment Committee. Wozniak will replace Wayne Briner as representative of the College of Natural and Social Sciences.

Old Business:

I. NONE

New Business:

I. NSSE 2012 Pilot
UNK was invited to participate in a NSSE pilot this spring on a new survey for freshmen and graduating seniors. The survey new survey contains questions related to engagement in campus cross-cultural activities and activities that might impact their careers after leaving school. Participants received e-mail invitations from NSSE and Senior VC Bicak to participate in the survey. Earls will have personnel in the residence halls encourage freshman to complete this survey. Butler sent out notices to Deans to encourage graduating seniors to participate since NSSE meaningful data for assessment purposes. UNK has been collecting NSSE data since 2002. In 2004, Varner Hall decided that campuses should collect NSSE data every three years, so the survey has been done in 2007 and 2010. We are doing it again this year since the pilot was free to UNK.

II. TaskStream Implementation for Fall 2012
Undergraduate Business Program and Psychology are contemplating initiating use of TaskStream in Fall 2012, and COE will continue using it to meet accreditation requirements. Last fall, faculty teaching GS portal courses were not trained in TaskStream, but only received emails asking them to use it in their classes. Faculty need to be trained each semester to use TaskStream and students should be encouraged to use it to develop personal portfolios.

III. Infrastructure to support TaskStream
The Office of Assessment will become more involved in implementing TaskStream. Butler plans to hold training each semester for faculty scheduled to teach GS portal courses the following semester. She further plans to set up a website with useful information for both faculty and students by Fall 2012. Loyola University in Chicago is a good example of such a website.

Ben Coulter is coming again in early April, 2012. This time, his presentation will include
examples of student e-portfolios from universities currently utilizing TaskStream.

IV. Ideas on how to handle student licenses for TaskStream without student fee
When asked by a committee member if the fee for TaskStream will be included in student fees next academic year, Butler advised that a request for the cost of TaskStream for students was completed and submitted to the Student Fees committee last month. A new Student Fees Committee was established this year by UNK VCBF. It is our understanding that the committee does not include faculty so there is a possibility that committee members do not fully understand the requests for specific student fees. All students entering the new General Studies program will be required to use TaskStream, as well as the education students in COE, business students and Psychology students. These students should have the license purchased through the student fee system. The new committee tabled the request for a TaskStream fee so it will not begin in fall 2012 as planned.

V. Correction of statement made by Daren about GS assessment
Butler made a correction to the statement by GS Director Snider wherein he stated that “Current UNK GS assessments meet our obligations to North Central.” Both Senior VC Bicak and Butler have agreed that the current data being collected in portal, capstone, democracy and foundation courses are not sufficient and that assessment in distribution areas of GS will still need to be developed in Fall 2012 and implemented in spring 2013 before North Central accreditation team comes to campus again.

Unruh stated that our old General Studies program was not assessable. The new GS program was set up to remedy that, so it does not make sense to think one section of courses in the new GS program will not be assessed. It is Unruh’s opinion that data should be collected by departments to aid in improving their teaching, not just because it is a requirement for accreditation.

Butler reminded the committee that in the past, every GS course, including distribution courses were assessed and results reported by the departments to the Assessment Director. As a result it doesn’t make sense to no longer require any data collection in distribution courses.

VI. Change to Question #6 in the WEAVEonline rubric completed by departments/programs to reflect changes departments have made based on assessment data
Members received a handout from Butler showing the evaluation questions that are currently used in WEAVonline to collect data on how departments are using their assessment data. The committee was advised that the last question on the form in the “Achievement Summary/Analysis” area will be changed to reflect specific things departments have changed as a result of the assessment data they have collected. This question will need to be completed by all departments in the annual departmental reports done for fall 2012. Butler asked that all members share this information with their colleagues that complete the departmental assessment in WEAVEonline.

VII. Other
NONE

There being no further business to come before the Committee, meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. If the committee meets in April, it will be Monday, April 2, in FNDH 2147.