

## Assessment Committee Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2023

**Present:** Beth O’Neill (Chair), Gloria Dye, Debbie Isaacson, Bobby Tso, Emily Grant, Haley Glover, Benjamin Reed, Chris Jones, Steve Hageman, Rhonda Boeckman, Jennifer Ball, Josh Huston, Christa Smith, Kara Kendall-Morwick.

### I. Program Assessment 2023

- a. The new assessment cycle is active in Taskstream. Assessment liaisons have been notified of this, and they can begin entering information when it is convenient for them.
- b. Trainings are scheduled for April 14 and April 21, focusing on the rubrics used by committee members to assess materials, what “target” scores could look on the materials, and navigating Taskstream. Materials are due August 31.
- c. An Assessment Committee retreat and norming/calibrating session for program assessment will take place in September 2023.

### II. Presentation on Oral and Written Communication USLO Reports

- a. Christa Smith provided an overview of the submission and review process for oral and written communication.
- b. Josh Huston provided an overview of the findings from the two reports. Discussion was had regarding this being a convenience sample, thus any sort of interpretations and discussion should be regarding the descriptive nature of the data, and not trying to generalize beyond that. Discussion was also held on whether comparisons can be made with other institutions. Methodology varies heavily across institutions so comparisons would be difficult. WU also revised the AAC&U rubrics, so method wouldn’t be exactly the same even though AAC&U rubrics are commonly used as the general framework for assessment. The committee also discussed that these two USLOs will be assessed again in 2024-2025. It is likely that methodology will need to be revised given likely impending changes with the general education framework, and potentially USLOs. Committee members wondered what the goal of this data is. Is it to see improvement in scores, or something else? Jennifer Ball shared that our goal with these processes shouldn’t be seen as necessarily trying to objectively see improvement in scores (as there are many confounding factors that impact the scores), but rather to assess and use that assessment data to inform our teaching and programs. The committee discussed the importance of identifying ways to get the data in front of faculty so that it can be used to inform teaching and assessment processes.

### III. Update on Awards and Grants

- a. Grants are due this Friday for FY24 and the grant subcommittee will then review. So far only one application has been received. Tell your colleagues to apply!
- b. There are five departments being considered for the Rising Star award, and seven departments being considered for the Achiever award. The majority of the

materials have been provided to awards subcommittee. The remaining piece is example syllabi submitted by eligible departments. The syllabi are due this Friday. It has been apparent that some changes are needed to the awards criteria/rubric given the format that data are available in, and increased number of programs that are now submitting materials. O'Neill plans to draft revised awards criteria this Summer, to be discussed in the Fall.

IV. 2023-2024 Committee

- a. Changes in committee membership?
  - i. Committee members present at the meeting reported that they believe that they will continue to represent their divisions/schools next year.
- b. USLO measures for next year: Critical Thinking and Creative Thinking
  - i. Next year, creative thinking will be assessed, along with critical thinking. A new measure needs to be identified for creative thinking, and it will likely include applying AAC&U Creative Thinking rubric to student-submitted artifacts. The source of the artifacts will need to be identified. O'Neill plans to consider options over the Summer, and any discussion that is needed around finalizing plans will be had in the Fall. The critical thinking methodology will likely mimic the methodology from the last time it was assessed: EN300 artifacts, assessed using a revised AAC&U rubric.
- c. Plan Assessment Extravaganza
  - i. O'Neill will work to begin planning this Summer, with the idea that a subcommittee would be formed in the Fall to assist with finalizing and implementing planning. The Extravaganza will likely take place on February 9 or 16.