Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2014
3:00-4:30 p.m.
Chafee Social Science Building, Room 601

In attendance:
Sandy Hicks (Chair) Mary MacDonald
John Stevenson Gary Boden
Elaine Finan Deb Rosen
Anne Hubbard Marilyn Barbour
Laura Beauvais

I. Approval of February 27, 2014 Minutes
February LOOC meeting minutes were approved.

II. Announcements
None.

III. SLOAA Update (Elaine Finan)
• The review process for program assessment reports is changing. A call went out to all faculty from Laura Beauvais’s office asking for candidates who wish to apply to do summer assessment work for undergraduate programs. A link to the application was included, and is also featured on the home page of the SLOAA website. Applications are due to assess@uri.edu by April 15th.
  o There was significant discussion focusing on:
    ▪ Who is eligible to apply?
    ▪ How many individuals are needed?
    ▪ What is the compensation rate?
    ▪ When would the work be done, and when would it be finished?
  o John Stevenson described a three-step process for the summer work:
    1. A team of two faculty will review each report and complete a rubric.
    2. The team will then review the report and rubric together.
    3. One faculty member of the team will write the reviewer feedback form.
  o We are still working on the new reviewer feedback form because in its current state, it is difficult to provide concise feedback to programs that are assessing multiple outcomes. We will be using an outcomes-based rubric with a summary sheet in the front of the document.
LOOC needs to create a selection committee to determine who will complete this summer work. The decision must be made between April 15th and April 25th in order to plan the training for summer work. Applications are due on April 15th and applicants will have been notified about selection decisions (anticipated) the week of April 21st.

- We need to estimate a timeframe for timely submission of assessment reports.
- The final reports will go through Elaine to the Provost.

Two important questions:

1. What is LOOC’s responsibility for the reports?
   - LOOC Policy #3. “Evaluation of Plans and Reports: Student learning outcomes assessment plans and reports shall be submitted through SLOAA for evaluation and recommendations by LOOC. Programs shall be notified directly of the results of the evaluation and whether modification is needed. Summary reports shall be published on the SLOAA website. LOOC shall provide a general summary of outcomes assessment in its annual report.”
   - Discussion that this policy needs finessing in order to clarify the process.
     - Is LOOC the sign-off?
     - Are reports evaluated by SLOAA and presented to LOOC for approval or just a “check” that they are done?
   - Summary of report content will be posted on the SLOAA website, similar to a “NEASC summary report.”
   - Suggestion that the LOOC committee should be doing more work with SLOAA’s assistance, instead of SLOAA doing a majority of the work with LOOC’s assistance.
   - Incorporate LOOC members in the assessment plan review which uses members of the Graduate Council Assessment Team.
   - Should we consider creating working group within LOOC based in assessment? This is similar to how CAC and UCGE operate (e.g., subcommittees).
   - The money for summer assessment report and plan review will be coming from Laura Beauvais’s office and not the colleges.

2. Since we are expecting that there will be follow-up by departments / programs on selected outcomes for assessment, how will the report process work to create a cycle of choosing outcomes to work on for the next report?
   - This item was not explicitly addressed at this time.

- Update on NSSE administration by Elaine and Gary Boden.
  - We are not finding great value in administering NSSE every two years, though it is valuable touchstone of information.
In the near future, NSSE will be done every three years, rather than every two years. The next administration will take place in 2016, rather than 2015.

The NSSE team created NSSE major field reports that delineate survey findings by programs as selected by the institution. We chose to receive the findings by college, so that each college could receive their own report. These are similar to “mini-NSSE reports” that are able to provide data at the college level, rather than institution level.

We may need to hold a workshop on how to use this information. For example, workshops may define and describe high impact practices and levels of engagement.

NSSE is a rich data set that provides a breadth of quantitative information. It may be helpful to create focus groups of students who completed NSSE in order to obtain a depth of qualitative information to complement the survey data that we have.

Adam Roth is working with other individuals on developing a Communication Rubric. More on URI-style rubrics in the general education program changes section, found below.

Multi-State Collaborative / National Assessment Pilot (Elaine, Diane Goldsmith, and Libby Miles):

- We need to collect work from students who have completed at least 75% of their academic program for fall 2014 for quantitative reasoning and writing.
- Libby is coordinating the writing portion of this project and is the faculty development point person.
- Nathan Hawk from Carlton College is a quantitative assessment expert and will be coming to URI to workshops to both faculty who will be identified to provide assignments for the multistate project and the general campus faculty interested in quantitative competency.
- The first phase of the project in funded through the Gates Foundation and consists of using the VALUE rubric unedited.
- The end-goal of the project is to determine the feasibility of assessing on a national level. This resulted in significant discussion among LOOC members regarding this issue, value or use of data, etc.

IV. Graduate Program Assessment Update (John Stevenson)

- LOOC members should get involved with the graduate program assessment work. Sandy is going to re-send the call for summer assessment work help to LOOC members.
- Training for Graduate Council Assessment Team members will be available.

V. General Education Program Changes
   A. Discussion of recent approval and implications for assessment
   B. Anticipated policy requirements

- New general education outcomes are being addressed with URI-adapted VALUE rubrics. URI is customizing the current AAC&U VALUE rubrics to fit the unique
needs of our university. The rubrics need to be developmental (including 100 – 500 levels) so they are useful to gen ed and other programs.

- Pages 26 and 27 of the general education proposal briefly define the new outcomes. The 13 pages that follow further define and expand on each of the outcomes. These are still “working definitions” and there was discussion about how these expanded definitions should impact rubric development.
- The Cultural Competence Rubric is in draft state and needs a coordinator to engage a broad range of faculty before pilot testing.
- Discussion among LOOC members regarding use of rubrics and “teaching to the test.”
  - What are the assessments for general education outcomes?
  - Is this assessment or grading?
  - We need to address this fear among faculty.
- Discussion concerning LOOC’s role in this project.
  - LOOC does not need to approve the rubrics that were tested. Information Literacy (IL) Rubric was endorsed by LOOC and can be be used for general education and other courses.
- More information on the general education program changes will be discussed at the next meeting.

VI. Action Plan (Sandy Hicks)
   A. Discuss / change goals
   B. Assign work groups
   C. Determine due dates for initial work

- More discussion on these points to follow, but for now:
  - Are there any points of policy that LOOC needs to change or update?
  - Are there any unknown issues?
  - What needs to be addressed?

VII. New Business?

- Not addressed at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

Next Meeting: April 24, 2014 3:00-4:30pm
Chafee Social Science Building, Room 601