Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2013
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Room 207, Pharmacy Building
7 Greenhouse Road

In attendance:
Marilyn Barbour (Chair)  Anne Hubbard
Diane Goldsmith  Bette Erickson
John Stevenson  Keith Killingbeck
Elaine Finan  Joanna Burkhardt
Anne Veeger  Laura Beauvais
Libby Miles  Cathy English
Mary MacDonald

I. Approval of February 20, 2013 Minutes

Minutes approved (pending one minor revision).

II. Announcements

IDEA Workshop: RSVP for Participation in LOOC/APRC Session.

IDEA teaching evaluation center representative Shelley Chapman will be here on April 4th. There will be faculty sessions, chair sessions, as well as assessment and APRC sessions. Assessment and APRC sessions will be tailored as to how we can use the IDEA as an element of assessment. The assessment session will be held at 1pm at Galanti Lounge. Please RSVP.

Caveat: It is important to consider if data from IDEA aggregated results can be used in assessment. Is this permitted in faculty contracts?

III. SLOAA Update

- NSSE: Participation has surpassed rates from last year, reflecting the increased marketing campaign. Current response rates are at 25.2% with approximately 21% of freshmen and 30% of seniors having completed the survey. We have just received rates of participation from reminder 3, with the final reminder being sent out on March 26th.
• Wabash: Approximately 40 individuals attending the luncheon. LOOC members are encouraged to RSVP and attend the luncheon. Please come to either session depending on your availability.

• Multi-State Collaborative: The participating state leaders have put a framework together. Meeting in Boulder was not possible for URI to attend due to Winter Storm Nemo. Follow-up with a phone meeting with an organizer(s) / representative(s) from Massachusetts who gave a synopsis of the meeting. A second follow-up has been conducted. URI has been reflecting on our participation. As of Friday, we have met with CCRI; RIC is still waiting. Meeting with Deborah resulted in giving 4 months to make a final decision. The collaborative is currently a pilot, we can be part of the pilot, but will make a decision after that.

CCRI and URI will be attending another round of discussion in June in Colorado. We are unsure who is going to be putting in a majority of the work in this project. We need to know what resources will be available and what benefit there will be for us. There were subgroups formed: Elaine is in the group for the design of the pilot group and Diane is in a metrics group. CCRI is on faculty engagement, PR, and one additional group. We will have covered 5 of the major subgroups joined with CCRI. Whether we choose to join or not, we can still have this type of collaborative on a regional level with CCRI. We are hoping to have a decision by August. It may be possible to apply for a Davis grant in the fall, particularly as Massachusetts is being supported by a Davis grant. Next point of contact is a potential phone meeting on April 4th.

• Review of Plans in June: We will need volunteers to begin to think about the review of graduate plans, totaling approximately 13 plans from Cohort I. Cohort II minigrant RFP’s will be distributed tomorrow to chairs and directors. A one-hour workshop will be held to help them to apply for the minigrant. There will be a meeting soon of the graduate assessment committee to train them on reviewing plans. May 1st LOOC meeting may or may not have a session to help LOOC members get familiarity of the process. Next year, sessions will be necessary.

IV. Continuing Business—Goals for 2012/2013

A. Discussion of Distribution of Assessment Data and Level of Posting on the SLOAA Website.

To prepare: See www.uri.edu/accreditation. We have just received our response from NEASC regarding our 5-year interim report. Absolute kudos to Elaine Finan for creating substantial documentation and prose regarding student learning outcomes assessment. Please see the level of documentation of student learning assessment contained within our report that is on the URI public site (pages 187-216 of the 5-year Interim Report). What should we be posting on the SLOAA website?
• Elaine did a substantial amount of work putting together prose and tables of all the reporting information and summarizing detail, which NEASC asks for.

• How do we want to share data that is produced by programs regarding learning outcomes assessment? The NEASC interim report is up on the website, which is publicly viewed, and it contains detailed information about individual programs.

• What information from the NEASC report should be shared and how should this information be shared on the SLOAA website?
  o Posting on the SLOAA website allows high transparency.
  o Using an appropriate frame is an important item to consider.
  o “Want to see what others are doing?” highlight on the SLOAA website with a link to the NEASC report (excluding the S-series). Programs can see what other programs in their college are doing and who to contact.
  o Usefulness of the NEASC data:
    ▪ Part of the usefulness is showing that your plans are public and ability to share with the dean.
    ▪ If the document is currently updated, we could potentially have updated information during each cohort round.
  o However, were programs explicitly told that their information would be posted publicly?
  o Do we need to go through multiple levels of approval?
    ▪ Considering that this is already published for NEASC, it may be less pertinent to go through multiple levels of approval.
    ▪ This may be able to go through the typical LOOC policy process.
  o NEASC information will likely be posted on the SLOAA website, rather than IR. We are not listing individual program scores, but rather qualitative information copied and pasted from the reports.
  o This is public data that anyone in the state of RI has access to. We are putting information on the SLOAA website to help departments look at the range of things that are happening, and to get some ideas for assessment. It is the frame of information that is important. There is no individual or personnel data.
  o In 2014 when UG reports are due, we can inform programs explicitly that summary data will be posted on the website.
  o Marilyn will be presenting the LOOC report at the Faculty Senate meeting in May, she is planning to say that we had a great NEASC response and we are putting assessment data on the SLOAA website for departments to review. We also anticipate revising the information as departments report in the future. Next year there can be discussion about the next cohort of UG programs reporting.
  o Going forward, will programs be honest with themselves if they know that the results are going to be made public?
    ▪ Data will remain in each program’s reports. The columns in NEASC differ from the columns on the reporting form and are neutral summary data.
B. Enhancing the Assessment Climate at URI – Plans to Act on Strategies.

- Going over handout provided by John Stevenson
  - Suggestions for learning outcomes climate change with implementers, timeline, and priority rating:
    - Advertise and promote resources for assessment
    - Recognize, publicize, and celebrate
    - Educate: potential collaboration with LOOC and IDP, peer support networks
    - Advocate

Discussion ensued:
- Advocate: Programs are wondering if anyone above them value assessment data, other than checking off that it was completed. The Provost and deans need to take additional action. The faculty need resources to do assessment and to understand that others above them value the work that they are doing.
- It is important for these messages to go from top-down, as well as bottom-up.
- The Provost is meeting with all of the deans to discuss budgets, but also to discuss faculty activities within the college that might reduce the amount of teaching workload (e.g., advising and assessment). It was noted that some deans may not value assessment enough to warrant teaching credit.
- Assessment awards tie into how service is recognized, and may be able to contribute to promotion, tenure, and annual review.

There is a blank space under the suggestions on each page available for write-ins. By the meeting in May, LOOC members should be considering areas to lead in implementing.

V. Review of Reports and Plans – Practice Session and Scheduling for June 2013.

Please see above in SLOAA update for additional information.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

Next Meeting: May 1, 2013 3:30-5:00pm
Pharmacy Building Room 207