

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
FACULTY SENATE

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
2006-07-5  
March 1, 2007

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**BACKGROUND:**

The Student Learning Improvement Assessment Advisory Committee (SLIAAC) is an ad hoc committee formed in 2005 by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, with representation from all colleges and Student Affairs. SLIACC has 27 members and meets approximately monthly. The size of the committee has been productive in the examination of the implications and implementation of outcomes assessment. At this time, the ad hoc committee has agreed that a standing joint committee on learning outcomes assessment should be established to continue the work of the ad hoc committee. They have forwarded a proposal to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for consideration. In consultation with the Provost and the Ad Hoc Student Learning Improvement Assessment Advisory Committee, the Executive Committee proposes the establishment of a joint Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee (LOOC).

***Proposal:***

***Committee Structure:***

The Committee would be a Joint Committee of the Faculty Senate and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The proposed structure best represents a shared governance approach to student learning outcomes assessment, increasing the likelihood of policy change and implementation, as well as a firmer connection with the University's administration. Such a structure ensures that resource requirements for advancing the effective assessment of learning outcomes could be directly addressed. This structure also would provide a more unified voice for addressing constituencies outside the University, including strategic handling of data. In addition, other areas critical to overall student outcomes, such as co-curricular activities and initiatives, would be given an appropriate voice. It is the recommendation of this ad hoc committee that the Joint Committee be heavily represented by faculty, with broad representation of the colleges and a faculty member who will serve as Chair.

***Proposed Committee Charges:***

1. Create policies for URI student learning outcomes assessment, data distribution and frequency of measurement at the university-wide level, with the approval of the Faculty Senate and the Provost. The Committee would be cognizant of accreditation timetables to ensure that the internal assessment process complements and supports external accreditation timelines.

2. Policies would pertain to: external reporting and the release of assessment data, setting of standards for outcomes assessment, identification of strengths and limitations of existing assessment practices, recommendations for resource allocation to enhance assessment practices, and additional matters within the purview of the Committee.
3. Oversee implementation and facilitation of the above policies by the Office of Student Learning, Outcomes Assessment and Accreditation.
4. Create an ongoing review of the learning outcomes assessment process (i.e. progress in defining, measuring, analyzing, feeding back, and responding to achievement of goals for student learning) in collaboration with organizational units within the University.
5. Interpret external expectations for university-wide learning outcomes assessment, including those of accreditation bodies.
6. Facilitate internal communication across units regarding ways of meeting those expectations.
7. Meet regularly to facilitate organizational learning and report annually to the Faculty Senate and the President/Provost regarding outcomes process review.
8. Assist the administration in reporting to external bodies regarding learning outcomes assessment at URI.
9. Provide advice and guidance to the Office of Student Learning, Outcomes Assessment, and Accreditation relevant to faculty learning of best practices of student learning outcomes and assessment.

**Committee Membership:**

1. College faculty representatives (four from Arts & Sciences, one from each of the other degree-granting colleges and one from the University Libraries);
2. Two representatives from Student Affairs (Vice President and/or designees);
3. One representative from the Office of Institutional Research (Director or designee);
4. Director of the Office of Student Learning, Outcomes Assessment, and Accreditation;
5. Vice Provost for Academic Affairs;
6. One representative from University College (Dean or designee);
7. One representative from the Instructional Development Program (Director or designee);

8. One faculty representative from each of the following Committees: The UCGE Subcommittee on General Education Assessment, the Curricular Affairs Committee, the Graduate Council, and the Teaching Effectiveness Committee; and
9. Three students: one graduate student, one undergraduate student, and one student representing the Feinsein CCE campus. They will be appointed respectively by the Graduate Student Association, the Student Senate, and the CCE Student Government Board.

Faculty representing the colleges would be appointed by the Faculty Senate and ideally would be individuals playing a prominent role in assessment in their colleges. All faculty appointments would be for a three-year term. Member terms would be staggered to ensure institutional memory. The Chair of the committee will be a faculty member appointed by the Faculty Senate in consultation with the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The membership would include 15 faculty members, 7 administrators/staff, and 3 students.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Faculty Senate approve the establishment of the following standing joint Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee to be included in the UNIVERSITY MANUAL:

**5.84.10 Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee (LOOC)** shall create policies for URI student learning outcomes assessment, data distribution and frequency of measurement at the university-wide level, with the approval of the Faculty Senate and the Provost. Such policies would include but not be limited to external reporting and the release of assessment data, setting of standards for outcomes assessment, identification of strengths and limitations of existing assessment practices and recommendations for resource allocation to enhance assessment practices,

**5.84.11** The committee shall provide advice and guidance to the Office of Student Learning, Outcomes Assessment, and Accreditation relevant to faculty learning of best practices of student learning outcomes and assessment and oversee implementation and facilitation of approved policies by the Office of Student Learning, Outcomes Assessment and Accreditation.

**5.84.12** The committee shall also develop an ongoing review of the learning outcomes assessment process, interpret external expectations for university-wide learning outcomes assessment, including those of accreditation bodies and facilitate internal communication across units regarding ways of meeting those expectations.

**5.84.13** The membership shall include fifteen faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate: four from Arts & Sciences, one from each of the other degree-granting colleges and one from the University Libraries, as well as one faculty representative of each of the following committees, the UCGE Subcommittee on General Education Assessment, the Curricular Affairs Committee, the Teaching Effectiveness Committee and the Graduate Council. Faculty representatives shall be individuals involved in assessment in their departments/colleges. All faculty appointments shall be for three-year staggered terms. In addition, administrative

members shall include the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, the Dean of University College or the dean's designee; two designees of the Vice President for Student Affairs, one representative of the Office of Institutional Research; one representative of the Instructional Development Program; and the Director of the Office of Student Learning, Outcomes Assessment, and Accreditation; A graduate student, an undergraduate student, and a student representing the Feinstein CCE campus, appointed respectively by the Graduate Student Association, the Student Senate, and the FCCE Student Government Board shall also serve on the committee. A faculty member appointed by the Faculty Senate in consultation with the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs shall chair the committee.