ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT COUNCIL Meeting Minutes 10/20/2014

Attendance:


1. Welcome

Diana welcomed the group and announced that the number of Academic Assessment Council meetings will be condensed to one per term to allow for more efficient use of time. The Office of Academic Assessment (OAA) will schedule annual check-in meetings with individual NYU units for more in-depth discussion and follow-up.

2. Accreditation Update

NYU has received confirmation that MSCHE accreditation is reaffirmed for the next decade. The statements on accreditation from Provost David McLaughlin and President John Sexton showed that the University was commended on its high-quality self-study report.

The NYU accreditation and assessment timeline illustrated the key assessment activities between 2004 and 2024. Prior to 2013, in order to comply with accreditation requirements for assessment of student learning outcomes at the program level, the University would collect data from each school and program in the years preceding the upcoming review. With the new system formalized in 2013, by instituting an annual collection of assessment data and updates for each program, the University is simultaneously maintaining compliance and better understanding and responding to how its students are learning in light of program objectives. In the 2013 cycle, the OAA implemented a universal deadline of April 30 for all NYU programs to submit their reports. It became clear that this deadline is a great fit for some units, but not all, so in the 2014 cycle, units were given the option to define a customized deadline where a later date fit better with internal unit processes, data collection and review timelines, and other accreditation requirements. Annual unit-level assessment deadlines now occur on a rolling basis, depending on the unique needs of each unit, between April and December.

OAA has begun its annual one-on-one meetings with assessment liaisons from each NYU unit. These meetings are important as they provide the opportunity to discuss findings from the past cycle, address any questions, and reflect on areas for improvement in the next cycle.

In terms of 2014 compliance, NYU’s overall assessment compliance rate is 95% (assuming that all programs with later submission deadlines will submit to OAA by their respective negotiated
deadlines). Several units are continuing to work to collect outstanding reports from some of their programs.

3. Student Learning Assessment: Gallatin Approach, B.A. Program - Presented by Assistant Dean Celeste Orangers on behalf of Associate Dean Michael Dinwiddie

Assistant Dean Celeste Orangers presented the Gallatin undergraduate program’s method of assessing student learning, focusing on how the unit has devised a working system given the unique individualized nature of their offerings.

To address faculty engagement, the program developed student learning goals and published them on the Gallatin website. They also developed a curriculum map, and began tracking and recording work on student learning assessment already taking place in faculty committees.

The program-level assessment plan included the mission, student learning outcomes, curriculum map, and contextual information such as the role of advising in student learning, measures and methods to assess student learning, and a summary of institutional infrastructure and support for assessment. Benchmarks, the capstone event, and advising survey were among the methods used to assess student learning in select undergraduate concentrations.

One key element of the assessment process was the use of NYU Classes to organize, store, and share assessment documents. Results of the assessment plan were presented to the Advisement and Policies Committee.

Gallatin’s approach yielded engaged faculty and positive responses to student learning assessment. Assessment reporting was also found to have multiple uses, including meeting University requirements, serving as a valuable resource for new faculty, serving as an archive for institutional memory, and reducing workload preparation for the 5- and 10-year MSCHE reviews.

Upcoming Meetings:

Spring Assessment Council Meeting
February 25th, 2:00-3:30pm President’s Conference Room, Bobst Library

Spring Term Academic Assessment Capacity Building Workshop (Optional)
Date and Details forthcoming

2nd Annual NYU Academic Assessment Symposium & Lunch Reception
May 8th, 10:00am-2:00pm Rosenthal Pavilion, Kimmel Center

Prepared by Melody Cherny