

Minutes of UOAC Meeting #12 on February 6, 2017

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm in the Beckett conference room. In attendance: L. Mathews (chair), J. deWinter, C. Demetry, D. Samson, D. Olinger, Giulio Cataldo, A. Donta-Venman (guest), and VP Kristin Tichenor (guest)
2. VP Tichenor was welcomed to the meeting, and was asked about thoughts about integrating a representative from institutional research into the UOAC committee. Believes that the director of institutional research can work in an unbiased manner within faculty governance. The question is whether educational assessment is an important part of job responsibilities. VP Tichenor acknowledges that the person who specializes in educational assessment is an important role, the UOAC committee fulfills an important role in educational assessment, and that WPI needs the data and expertise of a specialist in academic assessment. She then sees opportunity for a different role that specializes in educational assessment that could live in any number of places. The concern expressed by a committee member is whether the committee can ask the director of institutional assessment to conduct assessment work in support of UOAC initiatives. The change in the roster would allow the director of institutional research or representative member to serve on UOAC as an ex-officio member.
3. Both A. Donta-Venman and VP Kristin Tichenor excused themselves from the rest of the meeting.
4. Plans for the following term: Finalize taskforce language and charge members in D term. J. deWinter will step in as chair for UOAC in D term while L. Mathews will be off campus at a project center.
5. L. Mathews and D. Olinger will work with COG and CAP to finalize language on the existing motion to add a representative from the office of the Director of Institutional Research as a member to UOAC.
6. Global and Multicultural Competency Learning Outcome Taskforce:
 - a. The discussion questions whether the charge should limit the taskforce to just outcome #8, but other university outcomes may be affected by taskforce recommendations as well. Revision to the language was suggested to maintain a spotlight on outcome #8 but broadening the possible charge/impact.
 - b. The question is whether the second item, which indicates that off-campus advising should not entirely bear the responsibility of achieving global or multicultural competency, might be problematic. The revision starts with a positive statement about student achievement of the learning outcome.
 - c. A call for volunteers will be solicited from faculty, undergraduate students, and staff members to fill the membership for the taskforce.
 - d. The question once again arose about financial support for the taskforce to complete their work over the summer. UOAC will seek support from the administration.
 - e. A representative from the Office of Multicultural Affairs was added to the possible membership list for the taskforce.
 - f. The taskforce will be asked to have their first meeting in April 2017.
 - g. The taskforce should also develop an assessment plan that can document achievement of the proposed outcome. This is seen in the language of the charge to develop "assessment mechanisms."
 - h. In the charge, the taskforce will bring a draft of recommendations to the full faculty for feedback.
7. Minutes from meeting #11 were approved with minor revisions.
8. Meeting adjourned at 3:53.