

Minutes of UOAC Meeting #14 on March 16th, 2017

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 pm in the HL 201 conference room. In attendance: J. deWinter (chair), C. Demetry, D. Samson, D. Olinger, and A. Donta-Venman (guest)
2. Minutes from meeting #13 were approved with minor revisions.
3. Announce the GMCLOT call for taskforce participants at the faculty meeting; responses needed by April 1st.
4. Next steps: Planning an Alumni survey that speaks to UOAC questions. We could routinize the process of asking about learning outcomes via the alumni survey. Numbers 6, 8, and 10 of the undergraduate outcomes might lend themselves well to an alumni survey. HUA Dept. did an alumni survey that asked what use the HUA courses were to them—maybe of interest to this committee. If the HUA survey attends to global competency or critical thinking, then it would be of use to the committee. The Donahue study notes that students achieve outcomes but they don't necessarily know/identify where information comes from. Donta-Venman provided a series of sample questions for an alumni survey that ask alumni to self-evaluate on a scale. Such a survey would be useful because students report progress, but they don't give careful insight without professional benchmarking. It would be helpful to compare with a peer group. Might be value to provide same questions to students who just completed major projects and alumni to compare changes in their thinking. Samson reported that he is on a taskforce for outcomes on the HUA, which can take up these activities in relation to activities regarding HUA projects. Donta-Venman is in the process of launching a regular alumni survey in coordination with on-campus stakeholders, such as development, alumni relations, etc. A WPI complication is that often alumni surveys have to be articulated to ABET accreditation concerns. Donta-Venman notes that we need to find out what all of the different departments/programs do, why, and how those can be centralized to provide departments and the institution relevant information in a streamlined process. Look at the Matrix, the Donahue Study, and the Noel-Levitz report—look at the data sources that we have and look at different aspects of global competency to consider.
5. Meeting adjourned at 10:49.