

## Senate University Assessment Committee

### Annual Report for Academic Year 2022-2023

The Senate University Assessment Committee (UAC) provides faculty guidance and oversight to the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost in developing and implementing the University Assessment Plan. In addition, the committee analyzes and interprets assessment results, develops appropriate reports, and disseminates assessment results to the Office of Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, the University Senate, and the community.

Committee members for the 2022-2023 academic year included:

- Soizik Laguette (JDOSAS), chair
- Frank Bowman (CEM)
- Sherrie Fleshman (A&S)
- Makoto Tsuchiya (SMHS)
- Steven Light (NCoBPA)
- Shanna Urban (CNPD)
- Jenny Samarzja (LAW)
- Karyn Plumm (Essential Studies)
- Joseph Miller (School of Graduate Studies representative)
- Alex Pokornowski (Student Affairs representative)
- Karina Knutson and Amanda Moske (Academic Affairs representatives)
- Tyler Niemi and Faith Wahl (students)

The committee met monthly during the academic year and focused their work on the following projects: updated the University Assessment Committee Charge, update the Review Rubric used by committee members when reviewing submitted assessment reports, and implement a new assessment software submission system.

#### UAC Charge

The new UAC Charge was approved and distributed to University Senate with the following purpose, functions, and responsibilities:

**Purpose:** The Senate University Assessment Committee collaborates with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Accreditation as champions of the assessment of student learning at UND. This is done by supporting, guiding, and encouraging faculty and staff to utilize good practices, processes, and methodologies for assessment.

**Functions and Responsibilities:**

1. Serve as an advisory group to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Accreditation
2. Serve as the liaison between the college and UAC regarding the assessment of student learning
3. Provide assessment-related expertise and support to college, as needed
4. Review assigned curricular and co-curricular assessment reports, provide feedback and suggestions for improvement, using a shared rubric
5. Identify and facilitate development and training on key issues in assessment practice

## 6. Review and discuss results of assessments administered by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Accreditation

### Peer Review Rubric

A working group met monthly to update the Peer Review rubric used by the assessment committee to evaluate the assessment processes of academic and co-curricular programs. Examples from other campuses were referenced. The previous rubric was a rating scale rubric, without specific standards of performance articulated. The new analytic rubric includes standards of performance within each of the rubric criteria. The updated rubric increases transparency for programs on how to conduct good assessments, improves efficiencies for the UAC when reviewing the reports, and better aligns to the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) criteria for conducting assessment of student learning across the institution.

The new rubric is available on the UAC website (<https://und.edu/academics/provost/assessment-accreditation/assessment-committee.html>) and will be used for reviews during the 23-24 academic year.

### New Assessment Software

Based on negative feedback from faculty and staff regarding the previous assessment software, the university transitioned to Watermark's Planning & Self-Study. Three UAC members were identified as the implementation team and met with Watermark weekly to prepare for this transition. The software was launched May 1, 2023. The new software will be used to collect annual programmatic assessment reports and the narratives for the Academic Program Reviews.

### Review of Assessment Reports

There were no assessment report reviews assigned for the 2022-2023 academic year, based on the UND HLC reaffirmation timeline, which provided the committee the time to work on the above projects. However, programs were still required to submit their annual assessment reports. Submission rates were 95% for academic programs and certificates and 90% for co-curricular departments for the 2021-2022 academic year.

### Other Projects

In addition to the above, three UAC members participated as part of the search committee for the selection of the Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation, which had been vacant since August 2022. The search was successful, and Shane Schellpfeffer started the position in July 2023.