

UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
Feedback to Academic Departments on Assessment Activities Reported in __2010-11_ Annual Reports
GRADUATE PROGRAMS

DEPARTMENT __Earth System Sciences & Policy_____ **DATE** __March 1, 2012_____

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) CONDUCTING REVIEW __Joan Hawthorne, Sukhvarsh Jerath_____

1. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------------|
| • Were any goals referenced? | YES __X__ | NO ____ | QUALIFIED Y/N ____ |
| • If so, were goals well articulated? | YES ____ | NO ____ | QUALIFIED Y/N __X__ |
| • Do goals address student learning? | YES __X__ | NO ____ | QUALIFIED Y/N ____ |

Comments:

Goals are well-articulated in the plan. We noted that you changed language slightly on the first four goals in this year's annual report so that they are in language about what faculty will do (e.g., "provide a breadth of knowledge....") rather than what students will learn/be able to do. Since the goals are well-stated in the plan, we would suggest staying with that language.

2. ASSESSMENT METHODS

- | | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| Were any specific assessment methods referenced? | YES __X__ | NO ____ | QUALIFIED Y/N ____ |
| • If so, were specifically chosen assessment methods appropriately aligned with individual goals? | YES __X__ | NO ____ | QUALIFIED Y/N ____ |
| • Were both direct and indirect assessment methods used as components of a "multiple measures" approach? | YES __X__ | NO ____ | QUALIFIED Y/N ____ |

Comments:

It was very helpful to be able to see the clear alignment connecting goals to learning activities and assessment methods.

3. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

- | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|--------------------|
| Were any assessment results reported? | YES ____ | NO __X__ | QUALIFIED Y/N ____ |
| • If so, were the results clear in terms of how they specifically affirm achievement of goals? | YES ____ | NO ____ | QUALIFIED Y/N ____ |
| • If so, were the results clear in terms of how they indicate need for improvement? | YES ____ | NO ____ | QUALIFIED Y/N ____ |
| • Were the results tied to goals for student learning? | YES ____ | NO ____ | QUALIFIED Y/N ____ |

Comments:

Conclusions are identified in the annual report, and they may have been derived from analysis of recent results. But no sample results were provided in the current report, making it difficult to be certain of how loop-closing and conclusions trace back to results and data.

4. CLOSING THE LOOP

- | | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|---------------------|
| Were any actions taken on the basis of assessment results reported? | YES ____ | NO ____ | QUALIFIED Y/N __X__ |
| • If so, do curricular or other improvements/ changes arising from assessment results directly address goals for student learning? | YES __X__ | NO ____ | QUALIFIED Y/N ____ |

Comments:

Loop-closing activities are detailed and seem to be linked to intended student learning (goals). It would be very helpful to also see sample information from results that has led your faculty to decisions.

SUMMARY*Strengths**Areas for Improvement*

☒ A specific plan for assessment is in place.
☐ Student learning goals are well-articulated.
☒ Assessment methods are clearly described.
☒ Assessment methods are appropriately selected.
☐ Assessment methods are well-implemented.
☐ Direct and indirect methods are implemented.
☐ Results are reported.
☐ Results are tied to closing the loop.
 (Decision-making is tied to evidence.)

☐ No specific plan for assessment is in place.
☐ Student learning goals are not well-articulated.
☐ Assessment methods are not clearly described.
☐ Assessment methods are not appropriately selected.
☐ Assessment methods are not well-implemented.
☐ A single type of assessment methods predominates.
☐ No results are reported.
☐ Results are not clearly tied to closing the loop.
 (Decision-making is not directly tied to evidence.)

OVERALL SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

We were happy to see a very thorough plan in which goals are clearly articulated and methods aligned with specific goals. In a future report, it would be helpful to also see sample results. This would allow a reader to understand how loop-closing is linked to data that may have been collected in this year or in a previous year.

MATERIALS REVIEWED

☒ Annual report
☐ Appendices (cited in annual report)
☒ Other (please describe) *previous year's annual report*

☒ Assessment plan (as posted)
☒ Previous assessment review

Reviewer(s):	Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Sukhvarsh Jerath	<input type="checkbox"/> Joan Hawthorne
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Section 1: ☒ Y Section 2: ☒ Y Section 3: ☐ NA Section 4: ☐ ?

Coding Key:

Y = yes, this is done appropriately and well
 N = no, this is not done at all, or it is not done in relationship to student learning
 NA = no information available
 ? = action or progress is apparent; however, evidence is lacking that this is completely and appropriately done