UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
Feedback to Academic Departments on Assessment Activities Reported in __2012__ Annual Report
GRADUATE PROGRAMS

DEPARTMENT_____Educational Leadership_____**DATE**_____4/15/2013_____

PROGRAM(S) COVERED IN REVIEW _____M.Ed., M.S., Ph.D., Ed.D., Specialist_____

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) CONDUCTING REVIEW_____Shari Nelson_& Roxanne Hurley___ _

1. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

- Were any goals referenced?   YES____   NO__**X**__   QUALIFIED Y/N ___
- If so, were goals well articulated?   YES____   NO__**X**__   QUALIFIED Y/N ___
- Do goals address student learning?   YES____   NO__**X**__   QUALIFIED Y/N ___

Comments: In the annual report, the writer indicated that she was unable to locate an assessment plan for this program. There is a draft plan available online for the 2004-2005 Academic Year but because the writer indicates that an updated one is not available, this review will be based on the assumption that there is not a current one that is being used.

2. ASSESSMENT METHODS

Were any specific assessment methods referenced?	YES____	NO____	QUALIFIED Y/N __**X**_
• If so, were specifically chosen assessment methods appropriately aligned with individual goals?	YES_____	NO__**X**_	QUALIFIED Y/N ____
• Were both direct and indirect assessment methods used as components of a "multiple measures" approach?	YES_____	NO____	QUALIFIED Y/N __**X**_

Comments: Refer to Item #1. In the annual report, it is identified that numerous assessment results were collected using the following direct methods: (1) Oral exams for all degrees, (2) Portfolio requirements for M.Ed. and Specialist, (3) Written comps for Ed.D., and Ph.D., and (4) Dispositions for M.Ed. students. Departmental and university course evaluations represent the non-direct methods utilized. Since there is no assessment plan, the methods are not aligned with student learning goals.

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: There is a nice discussion of the types of assessment methods used, including time lines and responsibility for administration, but the results are not reported in the document made available. It is important to note that the writer does indicated that these results are available for review but, due to their length, are not included in the annual review. Without this information, however, it is not possible to address the sub-questions above.

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_____ NO____ QUALIFIED Y/N ____

Comments: The writer states that "both programs continuously use data to support curriculum changes. Many of the changes listed throughout this document are based on collection of data mentioned above." The writer also acknowledges that "this is the loop closing that has not occurred, but will have occurred this year, and preparation for the NCATE visitation next year." Without an assessment plan or results reported in the annual report, it is not possible to answer the sub-question in this area. It is difficult to determine which changes the writer is referring to as they are not addressed in this section of the report. It is apparent that a great deal of work is happening in this department and many beneficial changes are being made to curriculum. Without further information, however, it is impossible to determine, as the writer admits, as to whether the loop has been closed.

SUMMARY

Strengths	*Areas for Improvement*
____ A specific plan for assessment is in place.	_**X**_ No specific plan for assessment is in place.
____Student learning goals are well-articulated.	_**X**_ Student learning goals are not well-articulated.
_**X**_ Assessment methods are clearly described.	____ Assessment methods are not clearly described.
____ Assessment methods are appropriately selected.	_**X**_ Assessment methods are not appropriately selected.
_**X**_ Assessment methods are well-implemented.	____ Assessment methods are not well-implemented.
_**X**_ Direct and indirect methods are implemented.	____ A single type of assessment methods predominates.
____ Results are reported.	_**X**_ No results are reported.
____ Results are tied to closing the loop.	_**X**__Results are not clearly tied to closing the loop.
(Decision-making is tied to evidence.)	(Decision-making is not directly tied to evidence.)

OVERALL SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS: It is clear that this department is completing assessment and that many of its changes seem to be based on these results. Without an assessment plan in place, however, it is not possible to determine this fully or to evaluate the student learning goals or whether they have been appropriately selected. Based on a nice discussion of these methods in the annual report, it appears that these methods have been well implemented. Once again, however, without results being reported in this shortened annual report document, it is unclear how these results are driving changes, resulting in uncertainty as to closure of the loop. As this department moves forward, it will be important to develop an assessment plan so that transparency is evident and that the loop can be closed. It is also recommended that separate student learning goals are developed which address the unique differences of the five programs in this department. In addition, it is essential that results are reported in an abbreviated form in the annual report, or that they are easily accessible in another format.

MATERIALS REVIEWED

__**X**_ Annual report   _____ Assessment plan (as posted)
_____ Appendices (cited in annual report)   __**X**__ Previous assessment review
_____ Other (please describe)

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Section 1: __N___   Section 2: __?___   Section 3: __N___   Section 4: __?___

Coding Key:
    Y   = yes, this is done appropriately and well (bearing in mind the kind of program(s) reviewed and recognizing that assessment is a cyclical process, i.e., with additional kinds of data to be collected in other years)
    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

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