Advisory Committee on Academic Assessment

Context

Assessment must be ongoing within each academic unit to monitor the progress of student learning. The importance of formal academic (student learning outcome) assessment activity is emphasized by the fact that our university accrediting body, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), specifically requires that Eastern have a coordinated plan for data collection to inform future planning and decision making.

More important, institutionalizing assessment is not merely a matter of formalizing a set of assessment and data-gathering practices at the various levels of academic policy-making. Assessment is fundamental to our identity as a teaching institution. It sits at the core of our mission: student learning. It is thus essential that we make a continuous effort to study student outcomes so that we can continually adjust as needed the learning goals and the instructional processes we use to meet them. Finally, academic assessment is not a responsibility confined to a single, centralized committee; rather, this responsibility is distributed among all who shape the student learning experience.

Charge to the Advisory Committee on Academic Assessment (ACAA)

Advisory Committee members will meet on a regular basis (TBD) throughout the academic year to provide counsel to the Provost and informed direction to the faculty on the policies and practices of academic assessment. Initial appointments by the Deans to the committee will range from 1 to 3 years to ensure continuity of membership. Members may be re-appointed for additional terms.

Specifically, the Committee will:

- Promote and foster the training of departmental academic assessment coordinators (the position to be defined in Faculty Activity Plans and workload plans), who in turn will train their colleagues in classroom and program assessment practices
- Direct the gathering and recording of yearly Student Learning Outcomes for all Eastern programs in electronic format, creating records to be kept departmentally and in Academic Affairs to facilitate regular accreditation and program reviews
- Compose a report to the Provost that assesses in turn the results of the Student Learning Outcomes program
- Hold assessment workshops regularly for faculty and provide other resources as needed
- Review and monitor in-class assessment activities and assessment of the general education program
- Upon request of the Provost, collaborate with the Strategic Planning Council, the Program Review Committee, the Accreditation Steering Committee and the Office of Institutional Research, Demography and Assessment or others as needed regarding student learning outcome assessment
- Develop the framework for a comprehensive EWU Assessment Plan that addresses the goals and objectives of the plan, describes the data collection and analysis process, and outlines the ways in which this data is to be used to inform assessment policies and program revision

The Committee will provide periodic updates to the Faculty Senate, as well as an annual written report to the Board of Trustees, and to the Provost as requested.
Committee Membership
The Committee membership is comprised of the following membership:

- one representative from each college/Library appointed by the Dean
- Representative from Enrollment Management
- Representative from Undergraduate Studies
- The Director of the Office of Institutional Research, Demography and Assessment or designee
- The Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Research, Academic Planning, and Evaluation (GERAPE) (Chair of the Committee)